

صكنا من الامل

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,528

Kate Mosse defends the Orange prize shortlist



How Nick Faldo snatched victory and...



Education

### Sir Claus Moser: the crisis in our schools

G2 page 10/11

Ulster alarm raises prospect of Commons defeat

## Tories face ambush on rail sale

Rebecca Smithers and Chris Barrie

**T**HE fears of Ulster Unionists over the effect of rail privatisation in Northern Ireland look likely tomorrow to deliver John Major's first Commons defeat since last week's byelection failure cut his majority to one.

Although Labour business managers were only cautiously optimistic last night that they could align all minor parties behind their campaign to thwart privatisation, the discovery that the bus operator Stagecoach is interested in the province's 400 miles of track and 22 stations raised hopes of an ambush with Unionist backing.

A Government defeat would not stop rail privatisation because the legislation is already in place through the 1993 Railways Act. However, it would be a huge vote of no confidence in an important policy, just as ministers are hoping to tempt investors into the £1.8 billion Railtrack flotation. The willingness of the nine Unionist MPs to use their clout for local purposes, as they did against the Callaghan's minority Government in the late 1970s, is a sign of the power they wield in maintaining Mr Major's credibility.

Labour has initiated the debate and will put down a formal motion today calling for the £1.8 billion flotation of Railtrack to be scrapped, and

### The sell-off

- 20,000 miles of track
- 2,500 stations
- 9,000 level crossings
- 90 maintenance depots
- 40,000 bridges, viaducts, tunnels
- 11,500 employees

the rest of the complex privatisation reviewed. Labour is counting on the support of the 25 Liberal Democrat MPs, but accepts that the handful of Tory waverers, including Sir Keith Speed and Hugh Dykes, are unlikely to vote against the Government.

The Government has always maintained that privatisation of services in Northern Ireland should "follow rather than lead franchising in Great Britain".

Despite a recent reorganisation of the railway company, the timetable for "full franchising" is now said to be simply under review, and the Ulster Unionists are keen for clarification.

Yesterday Keith Bill, secretary of the Save Our Railways campaign, representing unions and passenger groups, said that Stagecoach has expressed interest in the Northern Ireland rail services.

The highly acquisitive com-

pany has been the subject of 24 separate investigations by the Office of Fair Trading over complaints such as predatory pricing in the bus industry.

A Stagecoach spokesman did not deny "informal interest" and said it had not yet received the green light to bid.

As the Government pressed ahead with publication of the pathfinder prospectus, Railtrack's chairman Bob Horton brushed aside questions on his future under a Labour government. The £150,000 former BP executive insisted that he intended to offer his services to the company once his contract expires next March.

He also dismissed criticism of the company's decision to pay shareholders a £90 million dividend from profits made while the company was in state ownership.

Mr Horton insisted that the payment would be taken into account by investors in setting the price tag.

But Jimmy Knapp, leader of the RMT rail union, condemned the payments as scandalous.

Revealed in the small print of the Railtrack prospectus, chief executive John Edmonds has had an 18 per cent salary increase to £168,000. Non-executive directors are entitled to receive an annual fee of £10,000 plus £500 for attending each meeting of a board committee.

Leader's comment, page 5; Notebook, page 11; Outlook, page 12.



A golden sance-boat in the exhibition of Trojan treasure that opened in Moscow yesterday

## Top City copper dealer quits

Paul Murphy and Patrick Donovan

**C**HARLES VINCENT, the City dealer who earned £18 million a year, has unexpectedly resigned from the leading metals trading company he founded, it emerged last night. He is said to be going for "lifestyle reasons".

Mr Vincent, aged 35, earned the nickname Copperfingers as he built up his firm, Winchester Commodities, within four years. The City watchdog, the Securities and Futures Authority, announced this year that it was investigating its activities.

There is no suggestion that Mr Vincent's departure is connected to the inquiry. A spokesman for Winchester, which has a salary bill of £55 million for its 48 employees, confirmed Mr Vincent had resigned, although no public announcement had been made. Mr Vincent was said to have been planning to leave the board as long ago as November. He is expected to keep his 50 per cent shareholding.

Winchester, based in the Hampshire city, admitted in February that City supervisors had raised concerns about a series of deals struck with the Chilean copper company Codelco. A spokesman for the SFA last night said that the dialogue with Winchester was continuing.

The SFA, which has been investigating Winchester for more than a year, was unaware last night of Mr Vincent's departure. Under company law Winchester is obliged to inform its regulator of all boardroom changes.

Mr Vincent won his nickname because of his consummate skill in playing the metals market. After starting Winchester, he quickly established himself as one of the most influential traders in the world markets, controlling almost a third of the total turnover in the London copper market.

## Labour steers Short from spotlight after tax gaffe

Rebecca Smithers Political Correspondent

**S**ENIOR Labour officials yesterday pulled Clare Short, the shadow transport secretary, from further interviews fearing more blunders after she refused to back down on comments that middle income earners should pay more tax.

In a clear sign of their waning confidence in Ms Short, they also decided to cancel a press conference planned for today, when she and other members of Labour's transport team were due to answer questions about tomorrow's critical Commons rail privatisation debate.

Ms Short's remarks to a Sunday morning TV programme blew a hole in Tony Blair's new campaign to present his party as a party of low taxation, allowing the Conservatives to put an abrupt end to Labour's glory in the wake of its resounding by-election victory in Staffordshire South-East.

Ms Short said that people like her should contribute more under a "fair" tax system — in sharp contrast to Mr Blair's view that



Clare Short: interviews and press conference cancelled

the GMT Sunday programme were merely personal and made it clear she would not be intimidated by Mr Blair's anonymous advisers, who are said to have accused her of being "inflexible, unprofessional and incompetent".

She pointed out that her basic MP's salary of around £24,000 was boosted by a widow's pension (her late husband was the former immigration minister Alex Lyon) and by "some media funding". But it is not clear whether this would take her over the £40,000 cut-off point, below which Tony Blair said last week that people might pay less tax under Labour.

Ms Short was also fiercely critical of the way her comments had been seized upon by the media, and said: "It's like a conspiracy to stop politicians talking honestly, so you get robots who just clone what they are told to say out of press releases."

Within minutes Radio 4 was reporting sources close to Mr Blair as saying that she was in a hole "she should stop digging". Within the hour, her deputy, Brian Wilson, was handling TV media appearances from Glasgow.

## Trojan gold glitters out of Bonn's reach

David Hearst in Moscow

**A**STUNNING collection of Trojan gold, seized by Soviet troops in Nazi Berlin in 1945, went on show in Moscow yesterday and immediately provoked demands from Germany for the return of the treasures.

For a year, the Pushkin museum will show 269 precious artefacts unearthed by a German archaeologist, Heinrich Schliemann, in 1873 and hidden in its vaults since the end of the second world war.

They are also claimed by Turkey, the location of what Schliemann claimed was the site of the city of Troy.

Opening the exhibition, the museum's director, Irina Antonova, was undaunted by the steady glances of the German ambassador, Ernst-Jürg von Stauditz, sitting behind her. She said she was happy the Pushkin could now show to the world what she had spent most of her working life denying had existed.

"What is happening here today is a second archaeological discovery," she said — the return to humanity of masterpieces which had been "out of culture" for a long time.

Mrs Antonova should know. It was she who buried King Priam's Treasure, as it



was then known, in the Pushkin's vaults on August 10, 1945, after personally accompanying the "evacuation" of the war booty by the Soviet army from occupied Berlin.

For almost 50 years Moscow denied it held the collection. President Boris Yeltsin admitted the truth in 1993.

Mr Von Stauditz said the exhibition was a step towards normality, but Bonn wanted the items back.

"Germany does not expect [Russia] to do more than fulfil existing agreements," he said. Bonn says a 1950 treaty with the then Soviet Union,

and a 1992 cultural agreement with Russia, require the return of booty seized illegally by either side during the second world war.

The treasures gleamed yesterday as if they had come straight from the goldsmith's workshop. Filigree hair-pins, crescent-shaped earrings, lock rings, a gold diadem worn by Schliemann's wife, golden chalices, a collection of three ritual hammer axes made from lapis lazuli — and the star of the collection, a golden twin-handled sance-boat.

Above the glittering array, Turn to page 2, column 7

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Sketch

Old war horses shy from new tricks



Peter Hetherington

THE old class warriors couldn't hide their distress. Behind the makeshift book stalls they peddled their wares...

Forty six years with communism and I haven't changed any ideas...

Once, Mick McGahey, the miners' leader, thundered from the platform about the evils of a market economy...

Review

Lightly waltzing with an elephant

John Fordham

Ray Brown/Steps Ahead Cheltenham Festival

THERE'S hardly an instrument used in jazz that ambitious players haven't managed to recreate in their own image...

This instrument, with strings that look thick enough to hold up a suspension bridge...

Brown has been a bass star for close on five decades, and is one of the first to sustain the independent momentum demanded by bebop...

Survey finds increase in otter population on English waterways

OTTERS are making a recovery on English waterways after being poisoned and hunted almost to extinction in the 1930s...

Research shows there were four times as many otters in 1985 as there were 15 years previously...

adherence to public ownership, unilateralism, full employment, a repeal of all Tory employment (ie, anti-union) legislation...

Rodney Bickerstaff, general secretary of the public services union Unison said that Blair's rush to the centre was getting out of hand...

So if Tony Blair wants "a mess not favoured" from the unions, he will get few good turns from this lot...

Today it will be the job of George Robertson, the shadow Scottish secretary and a former union official...

But while hard words sounded in the hall, a little new realism was to be found too. It came on a stand erected by the new Scottish coal company...

A good example of Baroness Thatcher's share owning democracy? "Sometimes you have to be pragmatic to deliver the goods..."



Children give victory signs as they flee northwards yesterday in a car damaged by Israeli strikes on the town of Nabatiyeh in south Lebanon

PHOTOGRAPH: ADNAN HAJI

West in disarray over Israeli offensive

British ministers at odds as Peres rejects unilateral French moves to secure ceasefire against Hizbullah in Lebanon

Ian Black in London and Derek Brown in Jerusalem

WESTERN efforts to broker a diplomatic solution to the fighting in Lebanon were in disarray last night as Israel rejected French calls for a ceasefire...

France's foreign minister, Hervé de Charette, was meeting Israeli leaders before travelling to Syria and Lebanon today in a move that was conspicuously unco-ordinated...

As the French envoy set off, Israel's prime minister, Shimon Peres, said bluntly that he was not ready to negotiate an end to the five-day-old air and artillery blitz against Hizbullah guerrillas...

"It is too early to negotiate," Mr Peres said when asked what were Israel's conditions for an end to the most serious military action in the Middle East since the Arab-Israeli peace process took off in September 1993...

EU diplomats criticised France for ignoring mechanisms for co-ordinating foreign policy, and complained that Paris was seeking to enhance its own role after President Jacques Chirac's recent...

visit to Beirut and his public affirmation of Lebanese independence.

Western governments have been unable to reconcile the contradiction between their support for the peace process, their opposition to militant Islamist movements, such as Hizbullah and its Iranian supporters...

Lebanon's prime minister, Rafik al-Hariri, before leaving Paris yesterday where he sought sympathy and support said: "If there were no [Israeli] occupation, there would be no reason for Hizbullah to exist."

Confusion over Britain's position arose when the Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, on a prearranged visit to Israel, gave strong backing to its attacks.

"I would not describe the Israeli reaction [in Lebanon] as disproportionate," Mr Portillo told reporters. "We look to Israel always to take measures which are measured and which are proportionate..."

One well-placed source said: "Substitute the name IRA for Hizbullah and you can see very clearly what happened."

Later yesterday the Foreign Office said: "We are disturbed by the increasing effects on civilians, despite Israel's efforts to avoid civilian loss of life, and by the growing humanitarian problems as large numbers of people flee from the south."

It said it was sending its director of Middle East affairs, John Shepherd, to Beirut for talks with the Lebanese government. "It's not true to say we support the Israeli action, but we understand the reason as to why it was initiated, which is a rather different thing," one official said.

Since last Thursday, Israeli gunfire and air strikes have killed more than 20 Lebanese and driven an estimated 400,000 from their homes. Each day of the assault, Hiz-

bullah actions and we condemn them unreservedly."

Several commentators, however, have pointed out that Mr Peres, who has effectively answered critics who accused him of a dangerous obsession with peacemaking at all costs, is gambling for high stakes with the military option.

Beirut in darkness, page 6; Leader comment and letters, page 9; Fruits of new order, page 9

Each day of the assault, Hiz-

Treasury denies error in tax 'hole'

Sarah Ryle

ALLEGATIONS that sophisticated tax dodges by City firms have caused a shortfall of \$5 billion in government VAT receipts provoked fierce denials from the Treasury last night that it had got its sums wrong and endangered the Chancellor's spending plans and tax cut hopes.

The Treasury is investigating the low haul by Customs & Excise - and City analysts are claiming that a key cause of the black hole in the Government's finances, set to be announced this week, is the VAT loss in the booming hidden economy.

The City expects the Government's Public Sector Borrowing Requirement to be £33 billion, £3 billion higher than the Treasury estimates and so another blow to the official forecasters.

VAT receipts in the current financial year are already expected by the Treasury to be \$4 billion lower than they originally hoped, although officials hit back at claims that their calculations were astray by as much as \$5 billion.

A spokesman said: "We have not only just become aware of the shortfall and we revised the initial prediction of £48 billion down to £44 billion in the November 1995 Budget."

"It has been fully factored into the Government's public spending arithmetic. We are waiting for the announcement on Thursday because until then we do not know exactly what the VAT revenue has been."

But he admitted that the Treasury was concerned that it had overestimated the VAT receipts for the 1990s as a whole and was seeking explanations with the help of Customs & Excise. He said some...

of the shortfall was blamed on the economy's failure to grow as quickly as Treasury forecasters had predicted.

Chief UK economist at City bank NBS, Simon Evison, said: "More companies are taking tax spending seriously, as are individuals, and more people are learning ways of paying less tax. But a much, much larger cause is structural changes in the economy. A lot of money is now being spent in a way that doesn't attract the attention of the Chancellor in the hidden economy."

And HSBC economist Ian Shepherdson said: "These things may be running at a higher level now."

But they also blamed the Government's own changes to the tax laws for the reduction in VAT revenue.

A shift in emphasis from boosting revenue through income tax rises to getting more money out of consumers by...

raising indirect levies since 1992 has had a significant effect on the VAT take, they said.

Consumers have had to bear more of the overall tax burden through increases in VAT on retail goods, but the recession meant much lower spending on the high street.

Companies, however, have had been given a lower share of the overall tax bill to pay than previously.

And a structural change in the labour market, which government figures have shown growing as a result of a rising number of part-time, low-paid jobs has also reduced the potential for tax revenue.

Trojan gold reignites war row between Russia and Germany

Continued from page 1 lay a simple inscription from Pushkin, who wrote when he saw a statue from ancient Greece: "I listen to the vanished sound of divine Hellenic speech."

Schliemann claimed his find, donated to the German state in 1881, had belonged to King Priam, the king of the ancient Greek city of Troy featured in Homer's epic poem the Iliad. But later archaeologists have concluded the objects from the site in north-west Turkey are from the Bronze Age - about 2,500 BC, some 1,300 years before the Homeric era.

Dr Wolf-Dieter Dube was another unhappy German present at yesterday's exhibition: "I am the general director of the state museums of Berlin, which means I am the real owner of this collection."

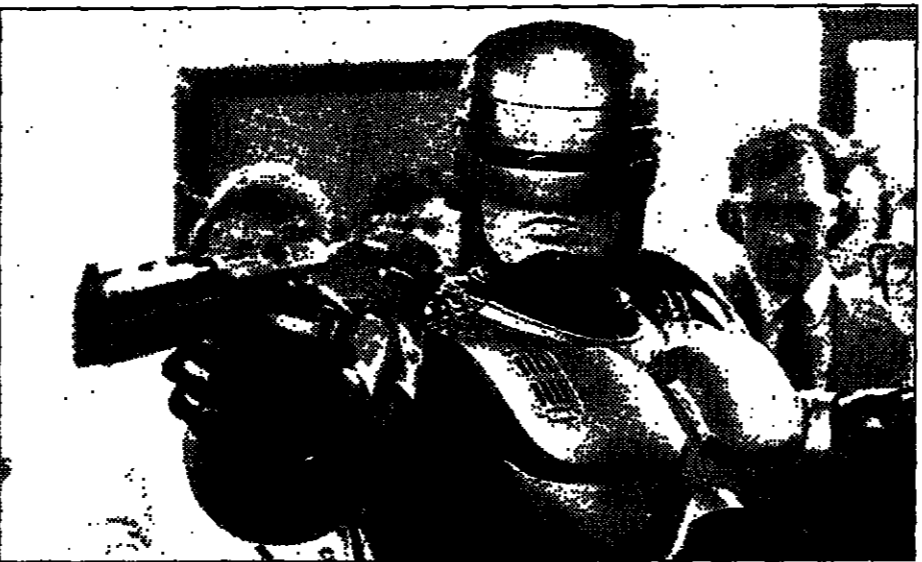
There were 1,500 pieces in the three boxes removed from the Berlin museums by Soviet troops, he said, but only 250 pieces were on show. "We look forward to the possibility to see in the nearest future the other 1,250-odd pieces."

But had Dr Dube had the opportunity of seeing the 17th century Russian church blown up by the SS in 1941, or any of the 427 Russian museums destroyed by the German army during the war? He admitted he had not.

Nobody could follow the logic of restitution in kind, he said. "You can't replace destroyed icons with golden finds from Troy."

The Russians believe you can. The minister of culture, Yevgeny Sidorov, made few bones about why Moscow was showing the Trojan gold. "We want to present precise data about our losses in the years of war. We want restitution," he said.

In other words, the Trojan gold is likely to stay in the Pushkin for some time.



Robocop: The British TV version of the film is seen as a gem of over-the-top censorship

TV viewers shocked by toned-down Robocop

Alex Bellis

ROBOCOP, the sci-fi movie best remembered for its comic-book violence, is still offending viewers almost a decade after its original release. Audiences watching it on television have been shocked by polite language and sickened that it was not violent enough.

Angry viewers have bombarded local ITV stations with calls, saying the television version has been censored so much that the film has been ruined. Public outrage has even prompted television executives to consider reinstating some of the bad language and violence when it is transmitted again.

responsible for censoring output, said Robocop, broadcast at 10.05pm on Saturday, well after the watershed, attracted more complaints than any other film this year.

He said: "One can't help but notice that we have taken too much out of a film like Robocop. Maybe we have gone too far in looking after people's welfare."

The British TV version of Robocop is generally regarded as a gem of over-the-top censorship, with the F-word over-dubbed enterprisingly and the violence so reduced that the plot is hard to follow. Mr O'Sullivan said the British version took five minutes off the US television version, itself a drastic re-edit of the 1987 original.

Michael Winner, Robocop's director and censorship spokesman of the Directors' Guild, said he was pleased people were making their voices heard. "Normally what you get is a moral minority making a disproportionate amount of noise," he said. "British television is censored beyond belief. I'm sure it didn't say 'Robocop, Scenes Thereof' in the Radio Times. They should be got under the Trade Descriptions Act."

But Mary Whitehouse, founder of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, said: "People that make that kind of complaint are only concerned about their own interests rather than the well-being of society as a whole. Anybody who cannot give up a little bit of film in order to reduce the climate of violence should not be taken seriously."

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Handwritten Arabic text: صكنا من الالهي



Kealey Hawes, above left, in Karaoke, and, left to right, Michael Grade, Albert Finney and Alan Yentob. Finney plays a writer who believes his characters are coming alive



PHOTOGRAPHS: BBC and SEAN SMITH

The Guardian

The latest three-monthly figures for the Guardian show that its readership rose by 19.6% against the same period a year ago. From December '95 to February '96 we had an average of 1,419,000 readers against 1,186,000 for the same period last year. The Independent's readership fell by 21.6% during the same period and the Telegraph by 7.5%. The Guardian's rise was the largest year on year increase of all quality and Sunday papers.

\*Figures supplied by National Readership Survey (NRS)

Plays that are pure Potter produce a posthumous put-down

Barrage of complaint precedes TV dramatist's 'fitting memorial'

Andrew Cuff Media Correspondent

DENNIS Potter supplied the leading character in the two final television dramas with a posthumous put-down of his critics. In one of many autobiographical twists in Karaoke and Cold Lazarus, to be screened in a £10.3 million collaboration between the BBC and Channel 4 this month, the dying writer Daniel Feeld declares from his hospital bed: "I am out of here in the morning and can afford to offend whomsoever I please."



Potter: Raced to finish project before death

watchdogs of more than 40 four-letter words in eight hours of drama. Mr Yentob said after a screening of the opening episodes: "Dennis would neither needlessly offend the audience, nor patronise them."

content and context is everything," he said. The two dramas were made in accordance with the dying wishes of the playwright, whose previous work included The Singing Detective and Lipstick on Your Collar. His extraordinary request for a "fitting memorial" came in a Channel 4 interview with Melvyn Bragg two months before his death from cancer in June 1994. During the 80-minute interview, fortified by champagne, black coffee, cigarettes, and morphine, he asked for the unprecedented arrangement between the two channels "since it is my last work, and since I have spent my life in television, and since that life has not been insignificant in television."

Rosemarie Whitman, one of the producers, said: "The emotional commitment from all of us is huge - we cried every episode." Kenneth Trodd, her fellow producer, said: "There were many times that we were watching it, that it was best we were in the dark. It does tug at the heart and you cannot express what your feelings are." Sarah Potter, who watched as her exhausted father wrote 12 pages a day instead of 10 to complete the project before his death, said: "I did not doubt that he would finish them... I think it is a brilliant piece of work."

Snake, rape and dead head weeping as slaming of playwright's door echoes

Nancy Banks-Smith

"OH, BUT they say the tongues of dying men enforce attention like deep harmony," as John of Gaunt said. Following this up with a hymn to England and a brisk ticking off for his nephew. The dying Dennis Potter, using emotional blackmail so cheerfully blatant it makes your eyes water, abandoned the BBC and Channel 4 into marriage. At his insistence they will show Karaoke and Cold Lazarus, which he wrote against the ticking of the cancer clock, in tandem from the end of April to the middle of June. A discreet divorce will then be arranged.

run by a couple of comic, foul mouthed monsters. Martina, renewed by youth pills and a string of young studs, makes the happy pills - and Slitz, a multi media mogul, makes the pappy programmes. England doesn't exist. Staring at Professor Emma Porlock (Frances de la Tour), an incarnation of formidable starchiness, Slitz says: "There may not be an England any more but there's still the English." "There will always be an England," says Professor Porlock tersely. This got both a laugh and applause at the National Film Theatre where both were shown over the weekend. This England is preserved in the cryogenically frozen head of Daniel Feeld (Albert Finney), essentially Potter himself. His frozen eyelids move. He is dreaming, as a dog dreams of rabbits, of a goal at Craven Cottage, of Wilson Keppel and Betty, of Oxford, of children singing "When I wake with the best in the mansion of rest, Will there be any stars in my crown?" There is always a snake. In this Eden where the bracken is thick as clotted cream, a boy is raped by a tramp. The dead head weeps. Slitz and his specialist in sexual arousal and erectile tissue are convinced the

head's memories will be a TV sensation. And then the scientists realize the head is aware of its own violation. Potter went out with a bang. You could hear the door slam behind him. As Daniel Feeld says: "I'm out of here in the morning. I can afford to offend whomsoever I choose." (Which reminds me, in Karaoke, Daniel Feeld disastously uses the name of a real man in his play. Oddy enough, there is a real Daniel Feeld too, a well known, but not apparently well known enough, hairdresser. Desperate lines of dialogue like "Feeld with two ees" sound as if this hair-tearing point was noticed rather late in the day. Never mind... nice man... drinks his own shampoo to show it's wholesome... probably won't mind being described as "that drunken fool".) The project went well over budget but Kenneth Trodd, the producer of both plays, was determined not to skimp on the mint sauce in what he called the Last Supper of television drama. There is one moment at the end of Karaoke where Albert Finney takes a mike and lip syncs to Bing Crosby's Pennies From Heaven. And the whole cheap joint falls silent listening or remembering.

Man, 85, to face war crimes trial

David Pallister

AN 85-year-old man who moved to England in 1947 from the Soviet Union yesterday became the first person in Britain to face trial on war crimes charges. Szymon Serafinowicz, from Banstead, Surrey, was committed for trial at the Old Bailey on three counts of murdering an unknown Jew in Byelorussia - now Belarus - while it was under Nazi occupation in 1941 and 1942. The chief metropolitan magistrate, Peter Badge, sitting at Dorking magistrates' court, said there was insufficient evidence to commit on a fourth, similar charge. A further charge was abandoned by the Crown Prosecution Service at the start of the hearing. The trial will be the first under the 1991 War Crimes Act, which allows charges to be brought against people resident in Britain for alleged offences in Nazi-occupied Europe. Mr Serafinowicz, a tiny, frail man dressed in a neat sports jacket, a tartan shirt and a large flat cap, sat silently in the dock as Mr Badge read out his judgement. His sons Kazimierz, 49, and Szymon, 52, were in the public gallery. The former carpenter settled in Surrey after the war with his Polish-born wife, who died some years ago. During the 32-day commitment, at which reporting restrictions were not lifted, the court heard from 16 witnesses from Israel, Siberia, Belarus, South Africa and the United States. The charges are that Mr Serafinowicz murdered three

Balliol chair loses 'tainted' money

Alex Bellis

GERT-RUDOLF Flick, the millionaire grandson of a Nazi war criminal, has paid out of funding a professorship at Balliol College, Oxford, after a year-long controversy about whether or not his money was tainted. Balliol College had given its backing to the Flick chair in European thought, which was to be funded by a £350,000 donation, but the decision was criticised by dons who believed it was unethical to accept money from the grandson of a man convicted at the Nuremberg war crimes tribunal. Dr Flick wrote to the university saying he wanted his name removed from the chair and his endowment money returned. He said: "I would like to thank the university wholeheartedly for its unwavering support, for which I shall always be grateful." A statement from the university last night said: "The University of Oxford has today accepted with regret a request from Dr Gert-Rudolf Flick that his name be removed from the new university chair in European thought which he funded for a five-year period (1995-2000), and that his endowment be returned. "The university will of course continue to support the chair of European thought, which is attached to Balliol College and held by Professor John Burrow."

Some dons also accused the university's ethical committee of acting behind closed doors and not being independent. Supporters of Dr Flick said his inheritance stemmed from the rebuilding of the Flick empire after the war, while his critics say wartime profits made with slave labour was the seed-corn to finance the post-war recovery. Dr Flick tried to calm the furore at Oxford by denouncing the Nazi regime. In a letter published in the Daily Telegraph on March 20 he said: "I would like to take this opportunity of reiterating my total abhorrence of what took place in Germany during the Third Reich, and to express again my profound personal shame for the involvement of my grandfather in these dreadful events. "I have, however, always felt that the fact that I bear the name of Flick should not preclude me from attempting, in a small way, to help improve things for my own and subsequent generations."

Dr Flick's grandfather, Friedrich, built up one of Germany's richest industrial empires, with products ranging from munitions to Mercedes Benz cars. He was an adviser to Heinrich Himmler and allegedly used 40,000 slave labourers. After the war, he was sentenced to seven years jail, and was freed after three years, in 1950. He died in 1972, aged 89, splitting his fortune between his grandsons, Dr Flick and his brother, Friedrich-Christian. Supporters of Dr Flick said his inheritance stemmed from the rebuilding of the Flick empire after the war, while his critics say wartime profits made with slave labour was the seed-corn to finance the post-war recovery. Dr Flick tried to calm the furore at Oxford by denouncing the Nazi regime. In a letter published in the Daily Telegraph on March 20 he said: "I would like to take this opportunity of reiterating my total abhorrence of what took place in Germany during the Third Reich, and to express again my profound personal shame for the involvement of my grandfather in these dreadful events. "I have, however, always felt that the fact that I bear the name of Flick should not preclude me from attempting, in a small way, to help improve things for my own and subsequent generations."

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Advertisement for Meg Henderson page 9. Text: "Since my mentally-handicapped daughter was diagnosed as psychotic two years ago, I have discovered a politically-correct world where it is sometimes hard to distinguish the patients from the staff." Includes a logo and a phone number 800 121 004.

# Language is power, corrupted pupils told

John Ezard on McDonald-led attempt to raise standards

**T**HE Better English Campaign yesterday opened its offensive against falling standards by putting the slogan Language is Power into every JobCentre in Britain.

Launching a 12-point programme to improve writing and speaking, the ITN news-caster Trevor McDonald warned: "The tiger economies of the Far East are in some ways making greater strides in English than we are."

Mr McDonald, chairman of the £250,000 government-funded campaign said: "I want every young person to understand that language is a source of power. To be able to speak and write good, clear English gives you a head start in the job market.

"Schools can't do it all on their own. If the rest of us are not maintaining standards we can't expect the schools to hold back the tide."

According to official figures, half of last year's GCSE pupils got below grade C or were ungraded in English.

The leaflet, due for display in 1,100 JobCentres, asks: "Do people listen to what you say? Do you get what you want out of conversations with banks and building societies? Are you ever tongue-tied?"

Other initiatives include sending journalists into school workshops, lobbying

employers and recruiting writers like Roger McGough, Beryl Bainbridge and Melvyn Bragg for classroom sessions.

So far campaign leaders, who include several journalists, have avoided attacking television, radio or newspapers for corrupting children's English. But this demure convention was breached twice yesterday.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the teachers' union NASUWT, said in a barbed welcome for the initiative:

**'Kids see names like Kwik Save in blazing lights in the high street'**

"English is a living language but some of the tabloid newspapers are throttling it to death.

"Teachers wage a constant battle to persuade pupils to follow good examples from school rather than bad examples from newspapers."

The campaign's most outspoken member, Chrissie Maher, criticised tabloids for popularising misspellings like STUNNA in their Page Three girl headlines.

And she called on the Ad-

vertising Standards Authority and town planning officials to act against firms which deliberately misspell words in shop logos or advertisements. Her blacklist included Toys 'R' Us, Spud U Like, the cut-price foodstore chain Kwik Save and the vehicle tyre chain Kwik-Fit.

Ms Maher, a self-educated Liverpudlian who founded the successful Plain English Campaign — on which Better English is modelled — said: "I know from my own life how people can be hurt and damaged by bad use of language, how they can be put in little boxes and written off as unintelligent.

"Kids see names like Kwik Save in blazing lights in the high street and constantly advertised on TV. These things are now a bigger influence than their teachers.

"They start to write the words wrong. I think a stronger guard should be kept on language."

Another member, Peter Davis, chairman of the Basic Skills Agency, said: "The business case for better English is clear. Firms will be much less likely to win and keep business if people get it wrong.

"We would like people to have the same sense of pride as the French in their language."



Stabbing victim Barrington Walker, who was attacked by 'possibly half a dozen men or more'

# Video clue in machete killing hunt

Duncan Campbell and David Ward

**P**OLICE are studying security video film from a Nottingham club outside which a group of men stabbed another to death with knives and machetes.

Barrington Walker, aged 32, who was unemployed and originally from Birmingham, was killed in the car park of the Marcus Garvey Afro-Caribbean community centre in the Lenton area of the city at 2am on Sunday morning.

Earlier in the evening trouble started between two groups of men at another meeting place, Club One. When the two groups moved to the Marcus Garvey centre, fighting started in the men's toilets and spilled outside.

There was what police described as "a sustained and violent" attack during which Mr Walker was stabbed and slashed. He died of stab wounds to the chest before he could reach hospital.

Detective Superintendent Peter Cole, of Nottinghamshire Police, said: "It was a cowardly and unprovoked attack by certainly more than one person and possibly half a dozen or more."

Mr Walker appeared to have tried to defend himself, using only his hands, and he received numerous stab wounds and quite a severe kicking as well. We are looking for a group of men who set out to attack him."

Despite an immediate search of the area by police, no weapon has been found.

Mr Walker, who had lived in Nottingham for about eight years, stayed with his girlfriend Sandra Higgins in Saxe Wood, a new estate on the outskirts of the city.

Last night, she said: "He was the best thing that ever happened to my life. He was liked and had lots of friends who will be devastated by what has happened."

She said Mr Walker had been jailed following a shooting incident in the city six years ago, but she did not believe that had anything to do with the attack on him.

Mr Walker was a regular at the club, which had been having a party disco on the night of the fight. There were around 130 people in the club, which was once a Raleigh bicycle company building, when the trouble started.

Police are appealing for witnesses to the fight which was thought to have started after an argument about a woman. Film from a number of security cameras at the club is also being studied.

Yesterday there were around 20 bouquets and other tributes at the gates — ranging from a bunch of unwrapped daffodils to a formal, wrapped arrangement in a basket. "Goodbye left unspoken", said the message on some yellow roses; "You'll be sadly missed" was another.

The centre functions both as a community centre and as the Indian Cavaliers Sports and Social Club.

It provides training for the unemployed and day care for the elderly; there is also a recording studio used by local bands. The social club's raves are famous and attract a wide ethnic mix in a city with the highest Afro-Caribbean population in the East Midlands.

"It can be a bit intimidating on Saturday nights when there are lots of cars outside the gates and people with mobile phones, said one local resident. "But I have been to the Friday parties and never known any trouble."

# Monarchy is still 'solid'

Major gives vote of confidence to mark Queen's 70th birthday

Vivek Chaudhary

**J**OHN Major yesterday said the monarchy was "rock solid" and most Britons felt they would be no better off "without the institution."

Despite the royal family's troubles and calls for a shake-up in the role of the monarchy, Mr Major said that any changes should be "gentle" and consistent with the "rhythm and tenor of the age."

He conceded that the recent problems of the royal family had been unwelcome. "But the constitutional monarchy itself, in my judgment, is rock solid. I can't conceive of this

country having anything other than a constitutional monarchy.

"And, I believe when people themselves sit back and say 'Would we be better off without a monarchy?' they will instinctively come to the conclusion that we would not be better off without a monarchy."

Mr Major made his comments during a pre-recorded interview on the BBC's One O'Clock News to mark the Queen's 70th birthday on April 21.

He admitted the monarchy's role had changed over the past 50 or 100 years.

He added: "The way it behaves is different. The way it is perceived is different. The

job it does is, in some respects, different. So it does evolve.

"I'm sure it will continue, but what those changes will be is impossible to say in advance. That there will be changes, I think is certain, but they will be gentle and they will be consistent with the rhythm and tenor of the age."

He said: "The monarchy is a very powerful institution and I think this Queen is a very fine exponent of constitutional monarchy. So I think the monarchy will emerge from its present troubles. I have no doubt about that."

Mr Major praised the Queen's understanding of her role. "She has a very acute knowledge and understanding of both of the political process and of the way in which that process impacts upon the country."

# Women's power 'a turn-off'

Sue Quinn

**T**HE EMPOWERMENT of women over the past 10 years could be to blame for an increase in cases of impotence among men, according to a new report.

An analysis of 3,693 cases by the relationship counselling service, Relate, shows

that almost a quarter of men receiving psychosexual therapy are now being treated for impotence. For the first time the disorder has replaced premature ejaculation as the most common sexual problem for which men seek help.

Counsellors say one reason for the increase is that men feel stripped of their masculinity as the power of women has increased in the workplace and in the bedroom.

According to a Relate counsellor, Julia Cole, some men fight back by saying they are not interested in sex, while others feel so emasculated that

they are unable to perform. "I think what you might say is that there has been a substantial change in the way we think about sexual relationships and sexual roles over the past 10 to 15 years, and perhaps one of the biggest changes is that women have started to say that sex is important for them."

"Women have begun to say, hang on, there's someone else in the bedroom."

For women, loss of interest in sex is the most common problem presented by a waning libido compared with 35 per cent 15 years ago.

# Aids retesting affects 25,000

Chris Hill Medical Correspondent

**T**HE NUMBER of people given suspect Aids tests was reduced to 25,000 by the Department of Health yesterday.

It said that it should be possible to get a general idea within a week of the number of people who took the suspect test and were given an incorrect result, as in most cases it was possible to use stored samples of blood and perform another, reliable test.

Originally 30,000 to 40,000 were thought to have been given suspect tests. Helpline have been swamped by people who had been told they were clear of HIV.

The department's statement contained a low key apology to those affected by the Chief Medical Officer, Sir Kenneth Calman. It also announced the results of a survey by the Public Health Laboratory Service and the Scottish Centre for Infection

and Environmental Health of the 68 laboratories throughout the UK which had used the suspect test, called the Abbott IMx HIV-1 and 2.

The number who were tested using this procedure over the whole period of its use was about 25,000. A few laboratories started to use the test in July and August 1995 rather than September 1995 as first thought.

PHS laboratories report that only a relatively small number of people will need to provide a fresh blood sample. Most people can be retested from stored samples.

Retesting began over Easter and the vast majority are expected to be completed early this week.

Commenting on the survey, Sir Kenneth said: "Full arrangements are now in place for retesting those affected by this deficient HIV antibody assay and are working well."

The department said that anyone who remained concerned should get in touch with their clinic or trust.

# Thinning hair? Don't trust an advertisement. Trust your pharmacist.

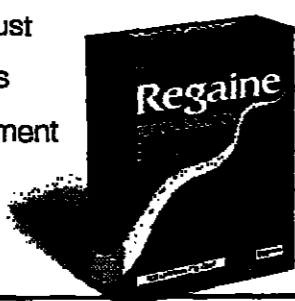
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# Britain renews extradition bid

David Starrook Ireland Correspondent

**A**RENEWED attempt by the Home Office to extradite from Dublin an Irishman suspected of involvement in the IRA's England bombing campaign will have to wait until a separate terrorist-related charge against him has been dealt with by the Irish courts.

Anthony Duncan, aged 26, from Finglas, Dublin, was charged with membership of the IRA on Saturday, only minutes after the collapse of extradition proceedings against him in an Irish district court. The extradition application was dropped because of "fatally flawed" documents relating to the case that had been submitted to Dublin by Scotland Yard.

The move prompted strongly-worded criticism of the British authorities from the judges dealing with the hearing.

Claire Loftus, the Irish bar-

rister acting on behalf of the British Home Office, told the court that the documentation relating to Duncan was flawed and in the circumstances she was not in a position to go ahead with the application.

After three hours of legal wrangling district court judge Tim Crowley ended the hearing and pointed out that it was not the first time in his personal experience that an extradition case had ended in failure.

"It has happened two or three times in the past that documents have been found to be fatally flawed. I take definite exception to this and object to what has happened," the judge said.

On Sunday the Home Office said fresh documents had been sent to Dublin applying for Duncan's extradition. But because of the charge he now faces — which carries a maximum five-year prison sentence on conviction — months may pass before the application is reconsidered.

# DTI considering options as journalist defies deadline

Andrew Cuff Media Correspondent

**T**HE deadline set for the journalist Adam Raphael of the Economist, to return a leaked copy of a Monopolies and Mergers Commission confidential report expired yesterday without any immediate action from the Department of Trade and Industry.

It had threatened to seek a High Court injunction unless Mr Raphael, a former Observer political editor, complied by 5pm yesterday with a demand to return the report and sign a "gagging order" agreeing not to publish details.

The DTI said the report con-

tained commercially sensitive information, which would have been excised from the final version.

Mr Raphael reported in last week's Economist that the Commission backed the controversial proposed multi-billion pound takeovers of Southern Electric by National Power and Midlands Electric by Powergen.

"The DTI spokesman said: 'We are still considering our options.'"

It has warned it would be a criminal offence under section 133 of the Fair Trading Act 1973 to publish information which would have been excised.

Mr Raphael said: "There has been no formal contact."

# 'Fighting women' story angers judges of newest literary prize

Vivek Chaudhary

**J**UDGES of the Orange Prize, the first literary competition reserved for women, claimed yesterday that there was an attempt to undermine it and that criticisms of some of the books entered seemed to have been taken out of context.

Kate Mosse, chairwoman of the judging panel, claimed that some sections of the press had portrayed a story about "women fighting women" after two judges, novelist Susan Hill and critic Val Hennessy, were reported as being disappointed by the low standard of books entered.

Ms Hill was reported as saying: "I thought the quality of

entries was abysmal, terrible. So many were by women with nothing to say claimed yesterday that the comments were only a reflection on some of the books entered and that positive views on other books had been omitted.

She added: "Both Susan and Val are very annoyed. They were talking about some of the books that were entered but were not considered as runners for the prize. They were not talking about all the books and not all their comments were published."

Ms Hill said yesterday "I was making a general comment about the state of all literature in the past 12 months."

When words fail, G2, page 8

# THE MARXIST PARTY PUBLIC MEETING

## "STOP THE ASYLUM AND IMMIGRATION BILL!"

**Speakers:** MARK FISHER MP  
CLAUDE MORAES JCWI  
CORIN REDGRAVE  
VANESSA REDGRAVE

SUNDAY APRIL 21st 1996, at 4.00pm

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London WC2  
(Next to Lumina Cinema, Next to Tube Entrance Square)

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News in brief

Jackson stage show complaints rejected

THE Michael Jackson performance which led to an on-stage protest by Pulp singer Jarvis Cocker was "open to misinterpretation" but did not breach any programme code, the Independent Television Commission said yesterday. It had received seven complaints from viewers angry at "apparently religious overtones" as Jackson stretched out his arms and was embraced by child and adult actors. In what was interpreted by some as a Christ-like pose at the ITV screening of the Brit Awards in February...

Canal twin died from injuries

A MAN found dead in Regents Canal, north London, where his twin was discovered eight days earlier had suffered severe head injuries, St Pancras coroner's court was told yesterday. Christopher Langford, aged 38, was found first and police originally believed that he had drowned. Detective Inspector John Yates said that the cause of Christopher's death was being re-examined after the discovery that Anthony Langford's cause of death was severe head injuries. He also had other injuries, including broken ribs. His body was found in a blue blanket. "A man has been arrested and charged with the double murder of the twins and is appearing at Highbury Corner magistrates court today."

Stranded tourists finally Goa

A HUNDRED holidaymakers who were stranded at Newcastle airport for nearly two days were put on a fleet of coaches for Glasgow airport for a 5pm flight last night to Goa, India. All the passengers will be paid £100 by Caledonian airlines for the delay caused because their plane which was flying to Scotland from Gatwick could not land at Newcastle because it would have added to the crew's flying hours, take-offs and landings. A landing at Newcastle and then Glasgow would put them over their limit.

400 item price cut

KWIK SAVE, which is selling baked beans at 3p a can and tinned tomatoes for 6p, yesterday cut prices by up to 15 per cent on around 400 products and claimed its campaign could save shoppers up to 25 p on a £20 weekly basket. A spokeswoman for Sainsbury's which has fuelled the check-out wars since the new year, said: "We were interested to hear of Kwik Save's price cuts but the fact remains that the Sainsbury's brand offers the best value for money."

Soya clue to breast cancer

SOY protein found in Chinese food contains chemical compounds which appear to mimic the action of the widely-used breast cancer drug tamoxifen, according to Helen Wiseman, of the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics at King's College, London. She says this may be why people in Japan and China have such low rates of breast, colon and prostate cancer and could also explain why populations consuming large amounts of soy products have a low incidence of heart disease. Tamoxifen was also believed to prevent heart disease and osteoporosis. At a meeting of the Biochemical Society at Liverpool university, Dr Wiseman suggested that oriental food may help to protect some women against breast cancer. Soya beans, soya milk and other soy products contain bioactive substances called isoflavonoids. Like tamoxifen, they may stop the female hormone oestrogen acting on the breast where it can cause cancer.

'Flesh bug' mother dies

JILL MASKELL, aged 29, who contracted necrotising fasciitis, a so-called flesh eating bug, days after giving birth to a healthy girl at Hillingdon hospital, north London, has died, it was disclosed yesterday. She had been transferred to Derriford hospital, Plymouth, and was receiving pioneering oxygen treatment in a recompression chamber at the Fort Bovisand hyperbaric medical centre.



Actress Joanna Lumley celebrates the launch today of a Post Office stamp set commemorating the centenary of the first commercial film show

Job scheme vulnerable, memo warns

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

MINISTERS have been warned that the Government is vulnerable to a legal challenge that could undermine its job training programme by forcing it to pay the child care costs of unemployed women. Officials say in a confidential memorandum that it is difficult to see how the Government could defeat a challenge under European Union law if significant numbers of women said they were unable to attend the new Project Work scheme because of lack of help with child care.

Offering child care assistance on Project Work would cost up to £50 million a year, the memorandum says, and might have wide-ranging implications for other schemes. Assistance on all schemes would exceed resources. Ministers have resisted calls to help unemployed women re-enter the job market by covering or subsidising child care costs, even though there is now a concerted drive to reduce the 1 million total of lone parents on income support benefit. Project Work, which started last week on a pilot basis in Hull and parts of Kent, is the nearest the Government has yet come to American-style "workfare" schemes making benefit conditional on participation.

Under the scheme, people aged 18-50 unemployed more than two years will be required to take part in a 13-week assisted job search followed, if unsuccessful, by 13 weeks of work experience. Failure to participate in work experience will trigger withdrawal of benefit for two weeks, or four weeks if the failure is repeated, although sanctions will not be applied to lone parents and may not be applied to others who demonstrate they cannot make child care arrangements for at least 16 hours a week.

The pilots are due to run until June next year, with a view to the scheme going national thereafter, and are expected to involve up to 8,000 people. The Whitehall memorandum was written earlier this month by Susan McLaren, of the employment policy division of the Department for Education and Employment. She recommends ministers not to offer help with child care costs under the new scheme — a recommendation the department yesterday confirmed had been accepted — but warns

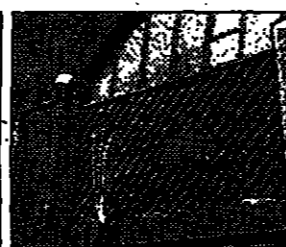
that the "high profile and controversial nature" of Project Work might make it more vulnerable than other schemes to legal challenge. Ms McLaren says that indirect discrimination would be proved under EU law if significantly more people of one sex were prevented from joining the scheme because of their caring responsibilities. "If the figures showed a disparate impact between the sexes... it is difficult to see how we could objectively justify the policy (the need to limit public expenditure is not considered sufficient justification)." She concludes by recommending "on balance" to ministers that no help with child care costs be offered because it would cost too much, but adds that the department's sex and race equality division disagrees on grounds that not offering help "may run contrary to the department policy of removing barriers to work for women".

Paul Convery, director of the Unemployment Unit pressure group, said last night: "We have known for over a decade that child care responsibilities do prove an obstacle to people who want to join training and work experience initiatives. It is clear they should be considered for Project Work."

Drugs clue to 'contract killing'

Stephen Lytle

TWO possible contract killers were being hunted by police in Manchester yesterday after separate shootings on Sunday evening left one man dead and another seriously wounded.



The Cafe Loco where an alleged underworld figure was killed

Greater Manchester Police are revealing few details about either incident but are not ruling out the possibility of them being contract shootings. It is not thought the two incidents are related. Neither victim has yet been named but the dead man is understood to be Anthony Constantinou, aged 36 and known in Manchester's underworld as Tony the Greek. Mr Constantinou was shot as he sat in the city centre Cafe Loco bar. His killer had walked up to him, fired a single shot and then left. Mr Constantinou died from his injuries shortly after being taken to Manchester Royal Infirmary. Some witnesses have been placed under armed police guard. The dead man had been banned from the Rainbow snooker club across the road from the Cafe Loco for alleged

drugs dealing. The manager of the club who does not wish to be named said that the shooting was drugs related. "I was told it was Tony who had been shot and that it was a gangland thing because of the drugs," he said. Earlier the same evening in Salford, a 24-year-old man was shot at close range while walking with a friend. A man wearing a black balaclava and long black trench coat appeared in front of him and fired a single shot. The victim had instinctively lifted his arm to protect his face and was hit in the wrist and arm. He is still receiving treatment in Hope hospital.

single shot and then left. Mr Constantinou died from his injuries shortly after being taken to Manchester Royal Infirmary. Some witnesses have been placed under armed police guard. The dead man had been banned from the Rainbow snooker club across the road from the Cafe Loco for alleged

Farmer's suicide 'over BSE scare'

Vivok Chaudhary

FRIENDS of a farmer who committed suicide yesterday said he was facing financial ruin because of the BSE crisis. John Capp, aged 58, of Beckingham, Lincolnshire, was found dead from carbon monoxide poisoning on Sunday. His friends claimed the beef scare had "tipped him over the edge" and that Mr Capp had been unable to sell any of his 200 cattle since the BSE scare started. Auctioneer Paul Gentry, who sold cows for Mr Capp at the cattle market in Newark, Nottinghamshire, said: "He had hundreds of thousands of pounds tied up in beef and faced financial ruin."

There were 983 suicides by farmers between 1980 and 1990, but the National Farmers Union thinks the true figure is much higher because coroners are often reluctant to record suicide verdicts. Harry Albright, East Midlands spokesman of the NFU, said: "We have said all along that this is a situation which is causing farmers great stress and that is why we are pressing for urgent action from the Government." Dairy farmer Joseph Roper was fined £10,000 yesterday after admitting four charges of selling cattle and not revealing his herd had been affected by BSE. Joseph Roper, aged 42, of Suckley, Hereford and Worcester, sold four Friesian cows at Worcester livestock market in August and September last year. Mohammed Irshad, for Hereford and Worcester trading standards, told Worcester magistrates: "It is important in light of what has happened recently that enforcement procedures are seen to be working." Mr Roper said after the hearing: "I feel that I've been made a scapegoat and I can't believe how much I've been fined."

Chief Justice warns on peril of trial by media

Chris Dyer, Legal Correspondent

THE Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, yesterday said that irresponsible media reporting of high profile cases could make a fair trial impossible. Saturation coverage had led to a growing number of defence applications to abort the entire proceedings. The risk of prosecution for contempt of court usually acted as a sufficient brake on media excesses, he told a meeting of Commonwealth judges and magistrates at Hertfordshire university in St Albans. But some newspapers pushed that risk to the limits. "We must recognise that the right of the public to information, and of the media to report and express views freely, has to be balanced against the right of the parties, and in particular of the defendant in a criminal case,

to a fair trial. One very real danger raised by irresponsible or merely excessive reporting of the judicial process or in ways of it is that the process itself may become impossible. "Trial by television then ceases to be an arbitrary slogan and becomes a real and dangerous threat to the rule of law. Courts must be vigilant to deal firmly with contempts where media coverage imperils the fair administration of justice." He attacked the "disturbing tendency" among defence solicitors to try to persuade the public that their client was a victim of a miscarriage of justice in the run-up to an appeal. This undermined the appeal process in the public's eyes and could limit the options available to the Appeal Court by prejudging any retrial which might be ordered. Lord Taylor asked the Law Society last year to consider

imposing a ban on solicitors speaking about their clients' cases in the media. Barristers have long had such a rule, but the society believes it is unnecessary. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, has referred the issue to his advisory committee on legal education and conduct. Lord Taylor again voiced his opposition to the televising of trials, which would cause unjustifiable stress and anxiety for witnesses. But he had an "open mind" on the question of televising appeals. Judges should be more prepared than formerly to talk to the media about law and legal issues. A legacy from past reluctance was that they were seen as aloof. "It is simply no longer sensible to remain silent when so much attention, much of it highly critical, is focused on the courts and the judicial process."

'Big Jack' facing fine after bailiff tackles him for unlicensed fishing

JACK Charlton, whose Republic of Ireland team poached a place among soccer's elite, was caught fishing without a licence and faces a £2,600 fine if convicted, writes John Duncan. Charlton was caught at Whittle Dean reservoir near his Northumberland home, fishing for trout without a licence. "I'm guilty," said Charlton, who retired recently as Ireland manager after steering them through the 1988 European Championships and 1994 World Cup finals. "It wasn't an oversight. I knew I didn't have a

licence. Mine expired on March 1 and I went fishing on Easter Monday. The bailiff asked me if I had a licence. I had to tell him I hadn't." He said he had not been able to buy a licence the previous Saturday because his daughter was having a baby in Leeds. Before that he was involved in organising his mother's funeral. Although he had not landed a single fish when challenged, Charlton — a keen angler since his youth — has now bought a licence but does not know if he will be taken to court.

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# Book ignites Holocaust row



Daniel Goldhagen: Pressing the case for collective guilt

### Ian Traynor in Bonn reports on the furore over a Harvard don's indictment of ordinary Germans and their role in the war

A NEW book by a Harvard professor has triggered outrage in Germany among historians, critics and intellectuals, even before it has become available across the country.

Daniel Goldhagen's book *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust* — a strongly argued indictment of Germans for their alleged complicity in the murder of 6 million Jews — has reopened an angst-ridden debate on what it is to be a German and whether the verdict of collective guilt is valid.

Prof Goldhagen, aged 36, has been promoting the book, which has just been published in Britain and the United States. He pressed his

'If the Germans are poisoned by their history, why aren't they still that today and forever?'

case on CNN, saying that the Holocaust was not facilitated by Hitler and the Nazi system, but by age-old, endemic, German hatred of Jews.

He said that German anti-Semitism was different from that in other countries in that it was "eliminationist", essentially genocidal; that ordinary German fathers, brothers, sons and lovers were not coerced into killing Jews, but did so voluntarily and gleefully.

"A book of radical simplicity," Frank Schirrmacher, the historian, literary critic and co-publisher of the Frankfurt *Allgemeine* newspaper, wrote yesterday.

Mr Schirrmacher, among the most formidable of a younger generation of German intellectuals, went on to say that Prof Goldhagen was "remythologising" the Holocaust after decades of painstaking research by other historians.

He argued that the book and its favourable reception in parts of the quality US media, raised more questions about the US than Germany.

"Goldhagen's book leaves questions open. They include questions about the intellectual participation of a society [the US] which sees such things as intellectual progress," he wrote.

Other experts see the book as emblematic of a new generation of Holocaust researchers who, through ignorance and ambition, have turned the clock back to the early, more simplistic anti-German writings of the immediate post-war years.

In Britain, the *Guardian* found it "pernicious" and the *Times* described it as the work of a man "who knows and understands nothing".

But Elie Wiesel, the Auschwitz survivor and Nobel prizewinning writer, described it as epochal, revealing troubling truths that the Germans have avoided for too long.

In Germany, the pundits are predicting another round in the acrimonious row between historians of left and right that erupted a decade ago over the evaluation of the Third Reich.

Die *Zeit*, the liberal weekly, devoted most of its front page and five inside pages to the furore. Rudolf Augstein, co-publisher of the weekly *Der Spiegel*, described Prof Goldhagen yesterday as "ignorant and malicious".

But regardless of the merits or otherwise of Prof Goldhagen's research and argument, the issue of ordinary Germans and their role in the Holocaust still touches raw nerves.

Last year, an exhibition purporting to prove the eager participation of German soldiers in massacring the Jews of eastern Europe — as opposed to the more comfortable proposition that it was the Nazi party apparatus and trained SS killer squads —

provoked an emotional row and a characteristic bout of soul-searching.

Prof Goldhagen's central assertion is that it was the Germans, not the Nazis, who were guilty.

"If the Germans in general are a nation of eliminationist anti-Semites, conditioned and poisoned by their history, why aren't they still that today, always and forever?" asked Josef Joffe, a prominent Munich journalist.

Norbert Frei, the Berlin historian, dismissed Prof Goldhagen's book as minor, based mainly on secondary research, adding little to the sum of knowledge on Nazism and the Holocaust. He lamented the fact that Prof Goldhagen's original doctoral work, on which the book is based, received a Political Science Association prize in the US.

Historiography of the Holocaust can rarely fail to produce a row. More troubling perhaps is the suggestion that younger expert opinion on the issues of blame and guilt will increasingly diverge in different countries, with wider repercussions, as the second world war becomes more distant history.

"It is amazing that, in 1996, history can again be presented as anthropology and four decades of research summarily ignored," said Mr Schirrmacher.



A poster in 1930s Berlin claims that the Jews of the world want to annihilate Germany. Announcing that the "battle" will soon begin, it exhorts the German people: Protect yourself. Don't buy from Jews

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# Air strikes plunge Beirut into darkness



David Hirst in Beirut

ISRAEL'S Grapes of Wrath operation in Lebanon continued unabated yesterday, with heavy aerial and artillery bombardments of the largely deserted south and west attacks on the capital Beirut.

A power plant was hit yesterday, the second since Sunday's strike on a plant near Beirut. Electricity was only fully restored to the capital three months ago — for the first time since the civil war — and the city is now back on rationing.

The radio station of the South Lebanese Army — which is supported by Israel and has been the source of all earlier warnings — said the Israeli army was planning to widen its "zone of operations" to include the port of Sidon, Lebanon's third largest city.

Hizbullah meanwhile, on the fifth day of the Israeli blitz, continued to fire Katyusha rockets into northern Israel.

During the day Israeli planes made more than 30 raids on south Lebanon, especially the Hizbullah stronghold of Iqim Al-Tuffah. The United Nations said about 2,000 artillery shells had fallen in the past 24 hours.

The casualty toll has risen to about 30 killed and 120 wounded since the offensive began.

Israeli planes knocked out an anti-aircraft gun in a strike on Beirut's southern suburbs. Two rockets exploded in the late afternoon near the main square in the Mraie neighbourhood, and one crashed into nearby Bir Hassan, the southern entrance to Beirut.

In a first attack on Tyre, most of whose inhabitants fled on Sunday, helicopters

fired four rockets close to the Roman ruins. Nabih Berri, the Shi'ite leader and Speaker of parliament, at a press conference in the city, urged the inhabitants to stay put, but quickly left himself when Israeli jets screamed low overhead.

The southern market town of Nabatiyeh and surrounding villages came under artillery fire earlier in the day.

Petrol stations and a bakery went up in flames, and a hospital run by Hizbullah and shops were hit in the nearby deserted town.

Elsewhere in the south, Israeli jets swooped down on suspected guerrilla rocket launchers in the Wadi Qais-ayeh valley.

Hizbullah fired six volleys of Katyusha missiles into northern Israel. One hit a synagogue, but there were no casualties.

An Israeli spokesman said that with only two or three missiles being fired at a time, the salvos were diminishing in intensity.

In Beirut, Hizbullah said it was in good military shape and had not yet lost a single "martyr".

In reply to the Israeli government's rejection of ceasefire calls, a Hizbullah source said he could see only one outcome: Israel must go back on its demand for Hizbullah's disarmament, and respect the understanding brokered by the United States that ended the last round of heavy fighting in 1993.

He said Hizbullah, which on Sunday had shown 70 candidates for suicide operations on television, "will use all possible means to defend the Lebanese people, co-ordinating its action with all parties, including Syria".

Leader comment and letters, page 5; First fruits of a new order, page 9

# Israeli raids fail to derail diplomacy



Derek Brown in Jerusalem

ISRAEL'S steady diplomatic progress in the Middle East has been unaffected by its continuing bombardment of south Lebanon.

Yesterday, as the head of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) lambasted "aggression" and "terrorist practices", Israel opened a new interests office in Tunis.

Tunisia becomes the fourth Arab state after Egypt, Jordan, and Morocco to establish diplomatic links with Israel.

Other countries moving steadily towards establishing formal ties include Oman and Qatar, which have maintained a discreet silence over Israel's assault on Lebanon.

Israel's closest allies in the region, Egypt and Jordan, have both expressed concern about the action in Lebanon but have stopped well short of formal protests.

Jordan's prime minister, Abdul Karim al-Kabari, is due to fly to Israel today to make what most observers believe is a largely symbolic offer to help broker a ceasefire in Lebanon.

Most Arab countries have made a muted response to the fighting, with the predictable exceptions of Iran and Iraq, both of which have issued shrill condemnations.

Even Syria, which will inevitably play a leading role in any ceasefire, has refrained from an all-out attack on Israel's tactics.

On Friday, the second day of the air and artillery assault by Israel against suspected Hizbullah guerrilla positions, a dozen Syrian soldiers in Beirut were wounded when an Israeli helicopter fired on an anti-aircraft position.

Syria has about 35,000 soldiers in Lebanon, and also serves as the conduit for Iranian arms and other supplies.

to the Shia fighters of Hizbullah.

The scores of Katyusha rockets which Hizbullah has fired into northern Israel in retaliation for the bombardment were almost certainly channelled through Syria, with the more than tacit approval of officials in Damascus.

Yet in the opaque world of Middle East diplomacy, the crisis in south Lebanon is widely seen as a controllable, not affecting long-established alliances and trends.

Even the OIC's secretary-general, Hamid al-Gabid, suggested yesterday that the regional peace process would survive.

In a speech to the office of the United Nations human rights commissioner in Geneva, he launched a violent verbal assault on Israel's bombardment, and what he called its "flagrant violation" of peace accords with the Palestinians.

In spite of the ongoing peace process in the Middle East, which we rightly support, we note that Israel continues to pursue a repressive and expansionist policy," Mr al-Gabid said.

Turkey's foreign minister, Emre Gönensay, yesterday rejected criticism by Iran and some Arab countries of a military co-operation agreement between his country and Israel.

Turkey responded to the criticism on the eve of a surprise visit by Israel's air force commander.

"Everyone knows that Turkey has no expansionist aims," Mr Gönensay told colleagues. "The agreement is geared towards increasing the defence capabilities of Turkey and the defence capabilities of friendly nations."

Under the agreement signed on February 23, Israeli pilots will be able to train in Turkish air space.

# Neo-fascists storm partisan heartland

Italy's National Alliance is embracing the free market to boost its chances in Sunday's polls, writes John Hooper in Fondotoce

JUST outside this village on the shores of Lake Maggiore, there is a long avenue of cypresses, at the far end of which stands an immense cross, higher than the tallest tree. A simple stone commemorates the 42 martyrs of Fondotoce — partisans and their non-combatant helpers, who were rounded up in the nearby mountains and shot here by the Germans in one of the most notorious mass executions of the second world war.

This region of snowy peaks and glittering lakes is littered with monuments to the 1,500 men and women in the province of Novara who died fighting the Nazis in the brief period after Italy made peace with the Allies in 1944.

For Sunday's general election, Fondotoce is in a constituency which roughly coincides with the erstwhile Partisan Republic of Ossola.

Its voters are expected to elect a lifelong neo-fascist as their local MP, Marco Zaccaria, aged 46, who has a boyish face and a ready smile, belonged to the MSI, the movement set up to perpetuate Mussolini's legacy until it was dissolved into the slightly broader National Alliance.

Mr Zaccaria already has a seat in parliament, which he owes to the fact that under Italy's electoral system 25 per cent of the seats in the lower house are chosen by proportional representation. Candidates who are rejected by their constituents for a first-past-the-post seat can still get into the legislature if their party puts them high enough up its proportional representation list.

At the last general election, two years ago, Mr Zaccaria won only 16 per cent here, but this time he is confident of topping the poll.

Offering tax breaks and bureaucratic reforms, he is making a forceful pitch for the business vote. "The Italian state wants to control everything," he said. "If you want to open a shop, you have to get 25 different permits and pay for every one."

This is revolutionary stuff from the representative of a movement whose traditional constituency is among poor southerners, who staff Italy's notorious state apparatus. But Mr Zaccaria believes that if the National Alliance is to achieve its expected gains in

the north, it is going to have to change.

"Events are pushing it in the direction of the free market," he said. His main opponent is not convinced.

The centre-left candidate, Franco Ravandoni, is a Marxist former Christian Democrat, expelled for two years at the start of the 1990s. He is also probably Italy's most popular mayor, having polled 87 per cent in the mountain town of Villadossola at the last election.

"The right is not free market, but monopolistic," he insisted. "Between them, Berlusconi and Fini represent a model of economic development which the rest of Europe rejected long ago — a combination of state intervention and private ownership which will inevitably favour a privileged few at the expense of the rest."

Away from the tourism of Lake Maggiore, there is a surprising amount of industry —

mostly iron, steel and chemical works. In recent years there have been many closures, and it is among the newly unemployed that Mr Ravandoni will be seeking a large share of his vote.

It looks like a straight contest between the lakeside business community and the mountain working class. But, warns Father Renato Sacco: "I'm not convinced people here will choose their MP purely on the basis of self-interest."

This part of the world has a strong tradition of Christian solidarity. Fr Renato is the sort of priest with a social conscience who brings on dyspepsia in rightwing politicians. On Sunday he aimed a barely veiled rebuke at the National Alliance for depicting itself as the party for which good Catholics should vote.

"I have the duty to remind people that God cannot be used in that way," he said. "The Nazis, too, claimed that 'God is with us'."

If the voters put history to one side and elect Mr Zaccaria, their choice will be seen either as an indication that Italians have failed to learn from their past, or as proof that they have healed the wounds it opened.

The anniversary of the liberation falls four days after polling. On Lake Maggiore, as throughout Italy, there will be a ceremony and mass.

"I shall be going, as I have done for several years now," said Mr Zaccaria. "But if I go as the elected representative of this constituency, it will be a sign that many things in this country have changed."

# Blackmailers threaten to spike food with snake venom



Roster in Düsseldorf

GERMAN authorities said yesterday that blackmailers had threatened to poison with lethal snake venom food in stores across Europe unless they receive diamonds worth a total of DM400 million (£175 million).

Prosecutors in Essen, who are co-ordinating the investigation, said the blackmailers had been making threats since January but that they had not contacted police.

Security sources added that the blackmailers or blackmailers had sent their demands to food manufacturers on computer disks.

The sources said it was not clear how serious the threats were, but police last week invited representatives of food firms to Essen to exchange information and give advice.

The threats had not been made public to avoid causing panic or hampering investigations.

Doctors say that if ingested, snake venom can pass harmlessly through the digestive tract, but it could enter the bloodstream through the small intestines or through cuts with possibly fatal results.

The blackmailers were reported to have demanded diamonds of a specific size and quantity which would make them difficult to trace later.

# News in brief

## Guerrilla chief granted entry

Israel agreed yesterday to let the guerrilla leader Nayef Hawatmeh, once one of its biggest enemies, return to the Palestinian self-rule areas.

Israel approved the entry of Nayef Hawatmeh, general secretary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said Jamil al-Tarifi, the Palestinian head of a liaison committee with Israel.

"I'm sure it is true," said an Israeli official. — Reuters.

## Soldier's rampage

An Indonesian soldier ran wild at remote Timika airport in Irian Jaya yesterday, shooting dead 15 people, including at least 10 military

## Activists jailed

A state security court in Beirut has sentenced 10 activists to between one and five years in prison after their conviction on sabotage and arson charges, newspapers reported yesterday. They were accused of taking part in a recent wave of anti-government protests. — AP.

## Dog's dinner

A man has been jailed for 11 years for a Prague court for murdering a neighbour who ate his dog, the Czech daily Mlada Fronta Dnes said. Miroslav Bartos stangled Josef Opa after Opa and his family were said to have eaten the dog for dinner. — Reuters.

Did Tony Blair watch the coverage of the golf from Augusta? If so, he will have seen Greg Norman acting out the Labour Party's worst nightmare.

Truth begins in

Deal on b US-Japan

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# Truth hearings begin in S Africa

David Beresford in East London

THE name of Karl Andrius Webber did not feature prominently in the story of South Africa's liberation struggle but, as he sat yesterday, his mutilated arm held to his chest as the light filtered through stained-glass windows, there was a sense that he had carved out a small place for himself in history.

This was not so much as a victim of war — in his case, a random shooting in a bar — but as an emblem of reconciliation and peace in South Africa.

The huge burgundy curtains on the stage in East London's city hall provided a fitting backdrop for the 17 members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as they set about uncovering the horrors of the apartheid era yesterday morning.

From the moment Archbishop Desmond Tutu clambered up on to the stage it was apparent that the occasion was more one of dramatic performance than judicial inquiry.

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Three more widows took the stand to tell the saga of the "Popo 3", leader of a Port Elizabeth black civic group summoned to the local airport by a mysterious telephone call to meet a non-existent British consular official — and never seen again.

As the women described their pain — with accounts of the years of struggle raising children without fathers, suffering detention and beatings themselves, and endlessly searching for the truth about what had happened to their loved ones — the commission began to run out of time.

The sad tale was gently brought to an end and two more witnesses stood down to bring Mr Webber to the stand.

Barry, with closely cropped hair, he was the picture of the archetypal white South African, a rugby player.

An animal welfare inspector, Mr Webber had made the mistake of going to an East London bar for a drink on May Day in 1986 with a friend who had just flown in from Cape Town.

The friend died with five others when a masked gunman walked into the bar and opened fire with an assault rifle.

The government called for the people who planned and carried out the air raid to surrender and face trial in a Libyan court, falling which Libya would turn to "legal international organisations" for help, the Jana news agency reported.

But attempts to inspire a show of defiance looked a little feeble at times, hinged in part on small rent-a-crowd groups of children chanting: "Challenge more, oh ye lone hawk!" — a reference to Colonel Muammar Gaddafi.

The rally, was a Libyan-style rave-up of live bands and slogans. It was held in the Assadiya barracks in central Tripoli, which houses Col Gaddafi's bombed-out former home, preserved as a museum of the attack.

Seadeh, wearing a smart dark grey suit and a floral tie, gave a short and confident speech, which met with rapt attention.

A chip off the old rhetorical block, he declared: "I stand before you as a member of the family of the man who said no to America."

Who is the terrorist? It is the devil nation which bombed us in the middle of the night."

He referred obliquely to last week's Channel 4 documentary which alleged that the United States intelligence services — rather than someone in Libya's London embassy — could have killed WPC Yvonne Fletcher in April 1984 to enlist British support against Libya.

"The truth has finally become clear as day. The Americans can no longer blame Libya for everything."

Seadeh, aged 20, described himself to the Guardian as an engineer in the army and said he had no political job.

Col Gaddafi had stood out from other Arab leaders in not promoting his sons, but Seadeh's appearances are becoming more frequent.

When asked whether he was going to take over from his father, Seadeh smiled and turned away. But a voice in the audience responded quietly: "His father may be tired, but he's not ready to go yet."

The leader did not attend yesterday's ceremonies. After three attempted coups — the latest reported less than two weeks ago — Col Gaddafi's whereabouts are said to be unknown even to his own cabinet.

Constantly on the move, with his women bodyguards, he conducts government business by telephone and personal summons.

After 28 years at the forefront of radical Arab politics, Col Gaddafi's nationalist tune was replaced long ago by the siren song of militant Islam. Col Gaddafi, aged 55, is rumoured to be in poor health.

United Nations sanctions imposed four years ago and renewed every 120 days have left the economy creaking and vulnerable to black marketeers.

Ten years on, Libya is the West's oldest pariah in the Arab world — and its east-easiest whipping boy.



Riding shotgun... Gunmen in a car adorned with the Liberian flag drive past the US embassy in Monrovia as looting continued in the capital

# Libya's new hawk bares anti-American talons

Ten years after the US air strikes, the son of Colonel Gaddafi has rallied public defiance, Kathy Evans in Tripoli reports

LIBYA closed itself to the outside world yesterday at the culmination of a two-day commemoration of the American air raid on both its main cities 10 years ago.

Borders were closed; land, sea and air travel was curtailed; and most international phone and telex links were cut.

The government called for the people who planned and carried out the air raid to surrender and face trial in a Libyan court, falling which Libya would turn to "legal international organisations" for help, the Jana news agency reported.

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# Khan all set to enter political arena

Gerald Bourke in Islamabad

MRAN Khan threw down the gauntlet to Pakistan's political party, but then seemed to change his mind.

"Going into politics and starting a movement for reform are two different things. Or perhaps they are the same thing," Mr Khan, aged 43, said.

He was speaking at the cancer hospital he founded in Lahore, as the clean-up continued after Sunday's bomb blast there which killed six people and injured more than 30.

"I am more determined than ever that this country needs reform. This act [the bombing] shows that law and order is breaking down, that our institutions are breaking down."

Then, to enthusiastic shouts of "beshak!" (God willing) from onlookers, he added: "Entering politics might not change the system but if we have a reform movement we could change it. This political system can do nothing for the country."

Corruption was "unprecedented", he said, denouncing the "extravagant lifestyles" of Pakistan's ruling politicians.

"We want reform in this country and I'm telling you I speak for the majority of the people," he added.

Asked whether his group would register as a party and contest elections, he said: "I'm not talking about votes at this time. I'm talking about a movement of people who are sick of the system."

Grassroots disaffection with Mr Bhutto's administration, which is halfway through its five-year term, has turned to exasperation.

It has failed to deliver on promises to raise the living standards of the predominantly poor voters who elected it, and is seen as dictatorial and repressive.

Aggressive politicisation has undermined the credibility of the judiciary, bureaucracy and police.

Parliament is dogged by bickering between the government and the main opposition party, a faction of the Pakistan Muslim League led by a former prime minister, Nawaz Sharif.

"You'll be doing it with me," Mr Sharif, who visited the hospital yesterday, said as Mr Khan outlined his agenda, slapping the ex-cricketer on the chest. This was met with a stony silence.

But most of Mr Khan's anger was directed at Ms Bhutto.

Asked whether it was significant he had not received her when she visited the hospital after Sunday's blast, he replied: "It is very significant. I feel that her government, whether she knows it or not, is responsible for creating so many hurdles in the way of this hospital."

"I didn't want to be here when she was here. It would have been hypocritical of me to stand and smile for people who want to make political capital. I strongly condemn this. I think politicians should make sure they do not capitalise on the miseries of their own people."

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# Deal on bases revamps US-Japan defence ties

Kevin Rafferty in Tokyo

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton arrives in Tokyo today to put the finishing touches to a new defence and security deal with Japan which will preserve the strength of United States forces in the country, but lessen what one defence expert calls "the clumsy footprint of the American military."

The deal reaffirms the importance of security ties between the US and Japan, but presents the Americans as gracious guests.

Officials on both sides are quietly congratulating themselves and hope the new arrangements will take much of the steam out of the anti-American campaign on the southern island of Okinawa.

The Okinawans are happy about the promised return of the giant Futatabi airbase, the disappearance of the ugly "elephant cage" communications facility — a multi-storey wire structure stuck in the middle of field — and the prospect of the land's owners getting back 19 square miles now occupied by US forces.

American forces are to get upgraded hi-tech equipment in effect, the Marines on Okinawa will be stronger.

In a US presidential election year and with Japan's prime minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, leading a fractious, squabbling coalition, the agreement is no mean achievement.

Nevertheless, some tricky issues have been swept under the carpet and neither Washington nor Tokyo has yet faced the larger questions about Japan's defence role in the 21st century.

The urgent consideration of new defence arrangements was forced on both countries

reluctant host to 75 per cent of US defence facilities in Japan.

The bases sprawl across 20 per cent of Okinawa's area. Japanese defence officials warn that there is much to be done before Futatabi is handed over, in up to seven years' time. The main condition for the deal is that US military capabilities are not reduced in any way.

Many places on the mainland will resist being the sites for any relocation of the Okinawa bases. Even trickier, Mr Hashimoto has promised to study legal measures that would allow US troops to use civilian ports and airports in time of war. The changes will cost the Japanese taxpayer \$500 million.

In the medium term, the question of whether Japan should be allowed to have fully-fledged armed forces — and play a role in the security of Asia — still has to be faced.

At the moment, Japan only has "self-defence forces", stipulated by its constitution. Shearing tanks, planes and trade issues could also threaten ties. Washington may be thankful that Mr Hashimoto has not lived up to his reputation as the first of a new generation of Japanese leaders — "he wasn't afraid to say no" to the US.

When he took over from the bland, ineffectual Socialist Tomiichi Murayama earlier this year, Mr Hashimoto was seen as younger, more vigorous and assertive. The leader of the conservative Liberal Democrats was, after all, the trade minister who had resisted US attempts to force higher car sales on Japan.

Instead, Mr Hashimoto has been busy trying to clean up the mess of bankrupt housing loan companies which are sapping Japan's financial system, and thus the country's economic leadership internationally. It is likely that the budget will still not be passed when Mr Clinton leaves for home.

Nevertheless, important trade disputes could still flare up. Japan's ministry of international trade and industry (Mitl) has said that it wants to see the end of the semi-conductor chip agreement with the US when it expires in July. It believes the pact — which sets a 20 per cent target for US chip sales to Japan — is "not feasible unless one is willing to trample on market mechanisms."

Although Japan's trade surplus with the US has fallen, Washington continues to accuse Tokyo of protectionism by imposing 48 barriers to free-trade.

US trade officials have called for vigorous efforts to gain better market access to Japan. Eastman Kodak, the film manufacturer, is pursuing charges against Japan's Fuji Film, and American airlines are trying to gain more routes and traffic. US insurance companies want to force open the Japanese market.

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## News in brief

**Nomads fight bush fire**

THOUSANDS of nomads in north-eastern Mongolia are fighting to save their tents and cattle from a huge bushfire, officials said yesterday.

The fire is fierce and is spreading fast, the governor of the Dornod province said. "Nearly all of our more than 3,000 people are fighting it."

The fire had raged across 618 square miles of land by the weekend, and has killed at least one person.

Satellite pictures at Ulan Bator's meteorological station showed large areas of the province on fire.

At least 1,000 cattle had been killed, but the total damage to herds could be much worse, officials said. Nomads were fighting to save their tents and livestock.

Firefighters had saved a large uranium mine in Mandalay and were gaining control of the blaze in Dornod.

Officials said at least 32 other suppression or forest fires are burning in Mongolia, boosted by recent dry weather. — Reuters.

**Opera bores Pavarotti's girl**

THE other woman in the life of tenor Luciano Pavarotti (left) says she prefers rock music to opera.

"At the beginning we had a lot of problems because I was bored to death by his wanting to opera," Nicoletta Mantovani said.

Pavarotti agreed last month to a separation

Sour Grapes of Wrath

Israel's over-reaction harms prospects for peace

HAVE THEY ALL been struck dumb? For five days as Israel intensified its assault on Lebanon the only sound in the White House, the UN Secretary-General's office and Downing Street has been the diplomatic shuffling of awkward feet.

This is not, unfortunately, the first time that Israel has launched an over-kill operation against the people of Lebanon. The real target is always elsewhere - against Damascus for its toleration of Hizbullah or, on this occasion, to disarm rightwing Likud opposition in the run-up to the Israeli elections.

tros-Ghali said that it was "deplorable" for any government to adopt policies which would lead to more refugees and displaced persons.

Israel's action is to be condemned on two clear grounds of principle. First, it goes far beyond the internationally recognised principle of "proportionate response". The right to self-defence to which Mr Portillo refers must be exercised with reasonable restraint.

Mr Peres's political difficulties in the wake of the Hamas bombings have been compounded by Hizbullah. Some response was to be expected but this protracted campaign has an air of desperation.

The cash standing at platform 4

Privatisation's cynical attempt to satisfy punters not passengers

THE ONLY thing about the Railtrack privatisation guaranteed to run on time is the handouts to shareholders. Yesterday's prospectus states that in addition to dividends expected in the current financial year, shareholders will get an unprecedented extra one - worth £69 million - for 1995/6 when Railtrack was still publicly owned.

The fact that we have experienced similar excesses on previous privatisations should not inure us to the utter cynicism of what is happening. Railtrack has to be sold on the basis of a sure-fire windfall gain because such a deeply flawed and unpopular privatisation couldn't happen with a realistic valuation.

Street in London (a project which may now be sidelined by the feared short-termism of the new railway owners). Two years ago the City was talking of a £5 billion tag and even that is but a fraction of the real cost.

A privatised Railtrack will have to improve its efficiency (that's shorthand for redundancies) considerably just to satisfy the appetite of its new owners for increased dividends. How it can do that and generate new funds for much needed investment (like CrossRail) without calling on the taxpayer is difficult to contemplate.

Enter the Norman conqueror

But could Faldo's winning putts be Tony Blair's bunker shot?

GREG NORMAN had never won the US Masters golf championship, but this year he led it from the start. At the end of day one, he was two strokes up on the field.

Then it began to fall apart. Agonisingly, Norman's lead flaked away at every hole. As error followed error, the certainty of a Norman victory dissolved.

Labour Party's worst nightmare. Nothing is worse than to build and sustain a lead and then throw it away to your greatest rival when within sight of a famous victory.

Like Sir Brian Shaw, my husband chairs main board meetings, and is on all board committees. He represents the organisation at meetings and functions: He is available every work day and contactable at all other times.



Letters to the Editor

Men behaving well

I AM 44 years old and have fathered four sons (Make the father figure, April 12). I have lived through the last 30 years of feminist development.

BEATRIX Campbell, the- F R Leavis of feminism (like him she elevates prejudice to a high moral plane and dresses it in fierce jargon), is always engaging to read, but her attack on Ros Coward is quite intimidating and curiously patriarchal in tone.

ROS Coward gives the impression that "male interests" in these matters are expressed only by paranoid misogynists, and that the majority of women think men should be abolished.

My (female) partner does as much child-care as might be expected of a busy but liberated "new man", and exercises a necessary veto over some of my and my daughter's daffier plans.

Israel vs Hizbullah: the propaganda war continues

ISRAELI propaganda draws a distinction between the civilian residents of southern Lebanon and the "terrorist" Hizbullah, with its benign warnings to those unfortunate citizens in the way of Operation Grapes of Wrath.

It is of some comfort that, for the most part, the western media have not automatically gone along with the official Israeli line. The damage on the ground in terms of property and people has been reported in detail in a way that was not always possible during the Gulf war.

It is of course tragic that 1400,000 people are now fleeing from their homes in southern Lebanon, as Israeli warplanes step up their now daily attacks. It is equally tragic that over a week ago, all women and children, two-thirds of the local population, were evacuated from their homes in northern Israel.

Although the scale of refugees is not equivalent, I fail to see how this was unworthy of news coverage. For the last couple of months, Katyushas have continually fired on the towns in northern Israel, and hardly a word has been reported in the British press.

Taken on board

FOLLOWING your inaccurate story about the Nolan Committee's intentions on pay for quango board members (April 11), I must set the record straight. The committee is currently looking at a range of local bodies which receive public funds and provide public services.

Such board members are volunteers. They are not paid at present, except for the chief executive when on the board. There has been a suggestion that payment might be introduced. The committee has been examining this, but the overwhelming weight of evidence has been against it.



Not on the side of the angel

IT SEEMS strange that northerners, famous for the warmth of their welcome, should commission a sculptor from the reputedly unfriendly south to greet travellers on the route north.

The design of the statue is similar to two designs that originate from between the world wars. The first is the trademark of the German car maker "Rumpler Trofen Auto", builders of early streamlined cars.

A charitable view of the TECs

YOU were alarmist in reporting the Inland Revenue and Oldham TEC case into whether the TEC is a charity (Taxpayers face £50m bill, April 11). It anticipated an exodus by business people of TEC boards because they would face much more onerous personal liabilities if the charitable status is upheld.

rule as for commercial companies. In the real world these risks are tiny. Cases of personal liability on charity-law grounds are as rare as the white eagle. Indeed, because charities operate within a regime of prudence, these risks are very much less than with commercial entities.

A Country Diary

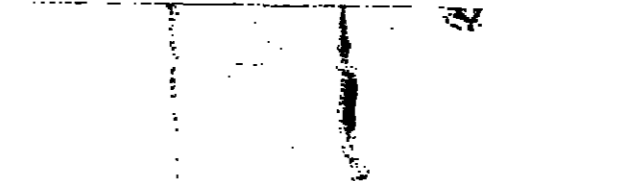
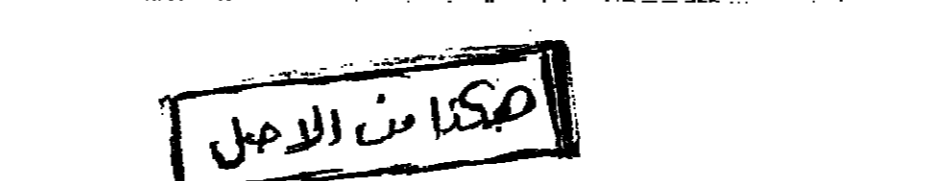
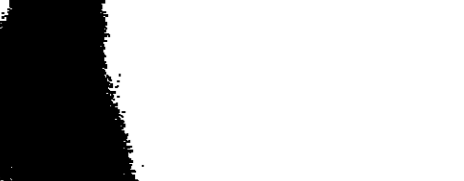
TIKAL, Guatemala: The large department of El Peten, in the north east corner of Guatemala, is a complete contrast to the country's cool and mountainous highlands to the south, and the steamy Pacific slope in the west.

ing, dart from branch to branch in their search for fruiting trees; the unmistakable Keel-billed Toucan with its large canoe-shaped bill; Ocellated Turkey in shining iridescent plumage; and the tiny humming-birds flashing from flower to flower, with such wonderful names as Purple-crowned Fairy and Wedge-tailed Sabrewing.

Evolution (or creation) of a row

ALAN Grant (Letters, April 15) misunderstands the very nature of natural selection. The "fittest" means best fitted to survive and breed. An Olympic sprinter is certainly fitter than I as an athlete, but not necessarily in evolutionary terms.

Evolutionary theory has enabled people to be free from the grip of a creator God if they want to. It is, therefore, easy to see why evolution has become the one sacred cow of our society which you criticise at your peril, even if this involves a thoroughly unscientific refusal to consider alternative ways of looking at the evidence.



A vertical strip on the right side of the page containing various text elements, including 'A year of the', 'Comm...', 'Hugo Young', 'C', 'Fin...', 'a n...', 'David M...', 'ing', 'N', and 'J M THOMPSON'.



Diary  
Matthew Norman

I AM a stung by a rebuke from Andrew Neil in the Daily Mail. The Voice of Controversy recalls that, when he wrote recently of his bachelor lifestyle, I took it upon myself "to find [him] a wife, inviting Guardian readers to write with proposals, which [I] promised to pass on." You will hardly believe it, but not one of the Diary's loyal army of readers has volunteered to be his wife. Andrew is distraught. "Despite eagerly greeting the postman every morning," he writes, "my mailbox remains empty of right-of-right suitors in Doc Martens and social work."

Michael Winner will be charged £352.50 (including VAT) for that item. Michael Winner, through the week of the Diary's privatisation has not been good, and I am forced already to introduce two new measures. Firstly, rates for plugs are discounted by 20 per cent; and secondly, the list of the publicity-seeking is barbed regardless of whether they asked to be mentioned or not — is extended; it now includes Sister Wendy Beckett, Sir Ivan Lawrence MP, Anthea Turner, Richard D Grant, Penelope Wilton and King Constantine of Greece. This is the result of downward pressure exerted by free-market discipline. It's what privatisation's all about.

TREVOR McDonald yesterday launched his campaign to improve spoken English. The promotion of "good, standard English" is a demanding task, and he rose early to begin espousing perfect grammar on the Today programme. Some of his criticisms: "UK asked to aid big-breeder's war claim." Peter Sako and his sister Lita Bleier have been suing Germany since 1958, for compensation (now claimed at £3.4 million) over the confiscation of pigs belonging to their Hungarian father, one of the Jewish world's top-ranked pig farmers. The Nazis took the swine and sent them from Budapest to Berlin, and the siblings — who have turned down a paltry German offer of just over £200,000 — have now turned to Malcolm Rifkind for succour. Let us hope he provides it.

My eye is caught by a most unusual headline in the Jewish Chronicle: "UK asked to aid big-breeder's war claim." Peter Sako and his sister Lita Bleier have been suing Germany since 1958, for compensation (now claimed at £3.4 million) over the confiscation of pigs belonging to their Hungarian father, one of the Jewish world's top-ranked pig farmers. The Nazis took the swine and sent them from Budapest to Berlin, and the siblings — who have turned down a paltry German offer of just over £200,000 — have now turned to Malcolm Rifkind for succour. Let us hope he provides it.

Enchanting press release arrives from Leeds-based clothing company Harry Brown. "Everything he buys," says the document, of the typical punter, "has to pass the classic design criteria... the kind of things we all want at one time or another... things like dog tags," it continues, "and FLO scarves." So then, Yasser Arafat has finally made it as a fashion icon. Perhaps, since he has a store in Belfast, that lovable eccentric Harry Brown might consider adding the black balaclava to the range? It could take its place alongside "Harry's own leather jackets, including one modelled on those worn by the LA Police Department." How sweet. They should ask Rodney King to endorse it.

ANDY Barker, a reporter with the Star, writes of weekly free-sheets delivered to homes on the north-east coast, has tripped over a full black bag of rubbish left in a corridor at the office. "I've written to you six times to tell you to stop putting your rubbish through my door," said a note taped to it, addressed to the editor. "You haven't, so here's mine."



# A year in the shadow of the Reaper

## Commentary Hugo Young

COLUMNISTS are often called pundits, and pundits has about it the presumptuous taint of prophecy. For the future is supposed to be part of the pundit's trade. For this reason, the word is a term of derision, available to reader, or politician, or anyone else in need of succour from our prophecies. For the same reason, this columnist seldom indulges in naked prediction. I have a hard enough time trying to pick a way through the recent past, without volunteering for the misadventure ahead.

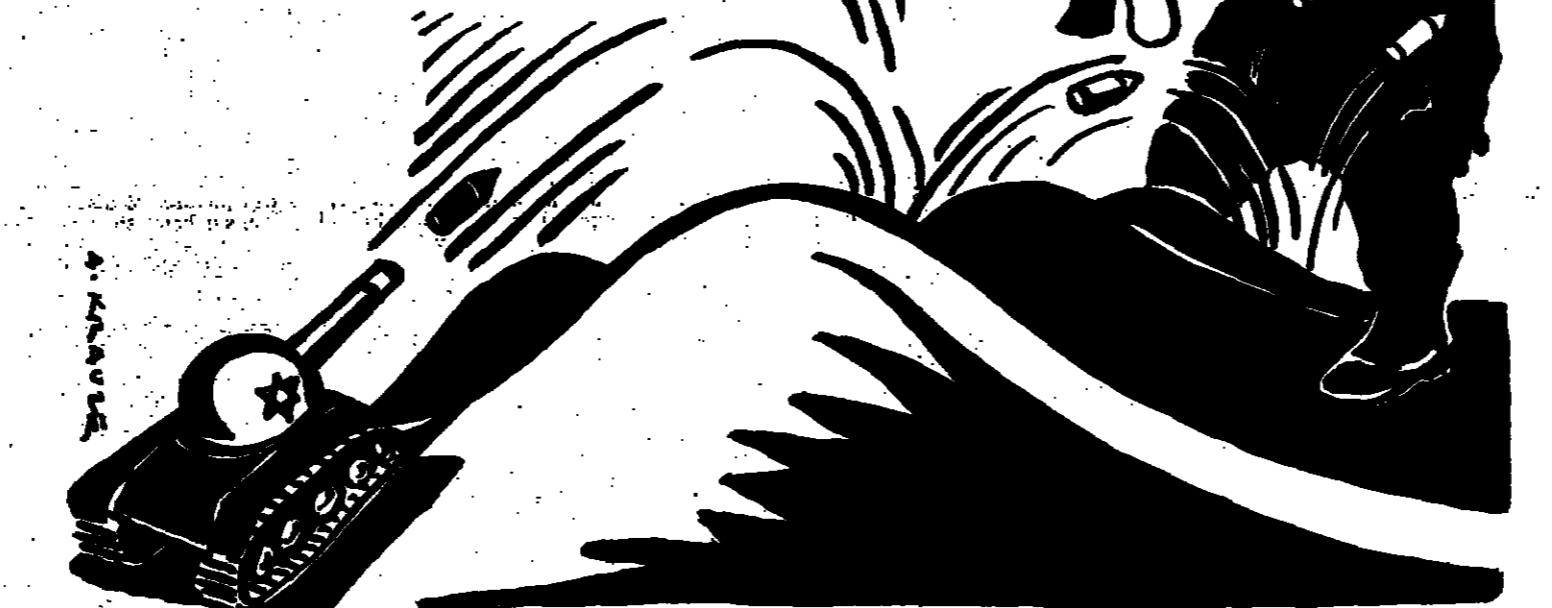
There are times, however, when the present is the future, and the future the present anyone recognises as important. In British politics, we have reached such a time. Nothing else matters. No bill, no decision, no speech, no ministerial act of any kind exists other than for its bearing on the future. Nor does any pronouncement, large or small, by any member of the Opposition. Prediction, therefore, is hoisted

from a speculative gamble, ignored by all prudent chroniclers, into the essence of the here and now. Punditry can be ducked no longer. One has one's duty to add to the conversation, which is now all that passes for politics. Five impossibilities seem to be crying out for certainties. 1. The Defectors. There will be no more defectors from the Tory benches. The rumour was got up by the Sunday press which, significantly, was obscure or silent about the names. In fact all the defectors have gone. The two who went all the way were rolling oddballs, Alan Howarth resolutely traversing from right to left, Emma Nicholson, whose party activism never had deep roots. Peter Thurnham, who resigned the whip but not the party, is another one-off oddity, and conceivably there are others with some special reason to jump ship. But I do not think so.

The survivors will toll on, mutiny in their heart but not when it counts, in their vote. Serious Tory wets have every reason to put on the squeeze, reminding Major with menace that Euro-phobism isn't the only game in town. And Labour people, including the leader, will go on exploiting the media's uncritical interest in the rumour-mill grinding out its crumbs. Rumour is, after all, political actuality if not truth.

But it will be death not deflection that extinguishes the Tory majority. 2. The Leader. There will be no challenge to John Major, and no change instigated by himself. A year ago, this would have been deemed a pathetically erroneous prophecy. The 1996 local elections, which now seem sure to eliminate at least 500 more Tory councillors, were designated Major's ultimate Waterloo. But he fessed this by getting his leadership confirmed in 1995, and the party has resumed the posture of one that lacks the will to remove even a leader whom most of its members are sure will be marching it to disaster. 3. The Confidence Vote. There will be a confidence vote, which the Government

will win. This is the trickiest prediction. That there will be such a vote is certain. Labour would look very silly if it failed to promote one before the summer recess. How it turns out will depend so critically on the machinations of Ulster politicians — progress of the peace, reckonings of future influence, Trimble/Paisley rivalry etc etc — that nobody can know the outcome. But unless someone else dies, the uncertainty factor favours the Government. Whipping every non-Conservative into the lobby will remain marginally more difficult than ensuring the presence of Sir Julian Critchley in his wheelchair within the Tory precincts. 4. The Budget. This will be preceded by an increasingly passionate public argument between the forces of recklessness and responsibility. It has already begun. The scope for large tax-cuts is disputed between different Treasury advisers, even more so among those fastidious students of economics, Tory politicians with seats to save. Kenneth Clarke will continue to be responsible. John Howard will be reckless, and John Major to have between the two. A battle is likely, in the end game, between numbers 10 and 11 Downing St. On this occasion, the Chancellor will secure revenge for his recent defeat over the single-currency referendum because, when all is said and done, the Prime Minister is concerned to protect his place in history. He does not want to be the agent of his own unravelling as the man of matches economic sagacity, who left British better placed than for many years to secure long-term, export-led growth. 5. The Election. Will be lost by the Conservatives, probably won with clarity by Labour, whether held next spring, as I expect, or in the autumn, as the Reaper may require. Contrivances are



# First fruits of a new order

## David Hirst, in Beirut, argues that Israel's Grapes of Wrath operation signals the broadening background to its central conflict with Syria

NO more rockets on Qiryat Shmona, exulted Menahim Begin when, with Operation Peace in Galilee, he sent his army into Lebanon in 1982. Fourteen years, and many lesser incursions, later, the rockets are still falling, and in greater profusion, than they ever have before. Stopping them is unquestionably the prime objective of the Grapes of Wrath. But beyond the assault on Hizbullah, there lies a wider objective, or a wider message, and Syria is the chief target of it. So it was in 1982. For then, too, the Israelis insisted that their only enemy was the "terrorists"; they wouldn't attack the Syrians unless they attacked them. It was pure cant of course. They simply couldn't get to the "terrorists" headquarters in Beirut without tackling the Syrians on the ground and in the air, who stood in their path.

Fourteen years on, the "terrorists" still have their headquarters in Beirut and, in attacking them, Israeli helicopters attacked nearby Syrian positions too. It was unintentional, they said. But that is pure cant too. For unintentional or not, the deeper import remains the same: in taking on Hizbullah, the Israelis are, as a matter of course, taking on those who

come into full effect, and it felt strong enough to attempt, via war in Lebanon, an ambitious feat of geopolitical engineering whose ultimate objective was to bring the Palestinians and its other Arab neighbours to peace on its terms.

The Lebanese adventure went very sour. But still, in unexpected ways to which it undoubtedly contributed, Israel has now achieved much of the agenda which Begin then had in mind. It has concluded two more "separata cedees" with the Palestinians and Jordan. Only Assad still holds out. He doesn't have the strength to impose his conception of a just peace — with a complete Israeli pull-out from the Golan at its heart — but he, and his Lebanese appendage, do have the strength to resist the "capitulation" of an Arafat or a Hussein. Such is Assad's reading of the prevailing balance of power, of which his support for Hizbullah, as an instrument of pressure, or ultimately as a bargaining chip, can trade in, is but an outgrowth.

But now, even that already unfavourable balance is changing yet again in Israel's favour. That is what, by taking on Hizbullah, Israel is, in effect, proclaiming. Assad, if he cannot expect to make peace when he continues to harbour or encourage the "enemies of peace", all those "terrorist" groups, the secular have-beens like George Habash's Popular Front, or up-and-coming Islamist ones like Hamas — and, of course, Hizbullah. The strategic cards in Assad's hand have dwindled alarmingly down the years; here comes Israel — with American blessing —

trying to strip him of yet one more. Much hangs on a Syrian-Israeli peace. Without it all the others could collapse. That accounts for the US's enduring ambivalence towards him. On the one hand, it sees him as a "radical". Syria stays on its list of "terrorist" states. On the other, it humours him because it needs him to complete the peace process.

But there is a limit, and basically it is an Israel-defined one, to the humouring. This never wholly concealed its obverse: that if he grew too obdurate, too resistant to peace as the US and Israel conceive it, then the time would come for him to be cut down to size, to become the object of that "containment" which the US applies to all those other "terrorist" states of the region, to Iran, Iraq, Libya and Sudan. The time would come to play on that sense of siege and encirclement to which Syrian rulers are in herentely prone. That, in fact, is already happening. So at least Syria perceives it. For it, the first fruit of the Sharm el-Sheikh "anti-terrorist" summit of the "American-Israeli alliance" that was forged there.

Iran is not going to call off the Hizbullah, and Lebanon cannot. Only Assad has a choice. If, at long last, the rockets do stop falling on Qiryat Shmona, it means that he will have bowed, yet again, to a whole new, and yet more unfavourable, balance of power. If they don't, it means he is defying it — at ever greater risk. So far, the signs are that he is ready for the risk. "Grapes of Wrath," said Tishreen newspaper yesterday, "will turn into a bitter fruit for all those who planned and executed it." For perhaps, at the end of the day, it is not such a great risk as all that. He does retain one vital card in his otherwise drastically weakening hand. It is that, in spite of the overwhelming superiority now on such contemptuous display in the skies over Beirut, the Israelis would be almost as reluctant as Syria to escalate from war-by-proxy in Lebanon to direct, total war between themselves.

# Madness of the 'normal variant'



Meg Henderson

OF ALL the horrors the Tories have visited on us over the past 15 years, two slot easily into the crime category: a precursor of both was the Baroness's notorious pronouncement that "there is no society, only people". First there was the dismantling and destruction of the NHS, and second the disaster known as Care in the Community, which is perhaps their worst transgression. Penny-pinching masquerading as idealism; disregard for the least able in our mythical society cynically elevated to liberal thinking. Whatever way you put it, this abnegation of all responsibility puts at risk not just the mentally ill, but, as we have seen too often, the general public too. Within the past few weeks we have heard the latest reports on murders committed by sick people turned on to the streets, where many will die. A schizophrenic released despite pleas from his family that he was dangerous, who then murdered his mother and nine-year-old stepbrother. Another who killed his father and an elderly couple after warnings were ignored; in this case the investigation decided that the psychiatrist concerned had been "unrealistic". What about culpable?

There are fewer acute beds for the mentally ill, fewer places of refuge and treatment for the sickest people; but that word "unrealistic" provides a strong clue. Since my mentally handicapped daughter was diagnosed as psychotic two years ago, I have discovered a politically correct world where it is sometimes hard to distinguish the patients from the staff. For a start, it is frowned upon to describe her condition as mental illness: this implies that there is something wrong with her. No, what we must do is recognise that her problem, in reality the severest kind of mental illness, is the public's perception of her difficulties. For "mental illness" read "normal variant"; change the words and we calm the fears of the public, who will then cope admirably with the behaviour they see. Why didn't we think of it before?

In this crusade all symptoms are denied or minimised, and anyone suggesting that the patient is hallucinating, for instance, will be treated with withering contempt. The message is clear: enter the conspiracy to deny the existence of mental illness or you will be ostracised. A strong pillar of this innovative approach is that perceived risk to and from vulnerable, confused and sometimes dangerous people is over-protected caused by ignorant prejudice, and to demonstrate the errors of this line of thinking, the doors must be thrown open. And all will be well; there may be the odd hiccup, a murder or two for which no psychiatrist will be held accountable. That's only fair, the risk we must take. But keep the faith, the public will learn to cope. Any mention of protection will earn you a sharp smack across the hand; protection is a very dirty word. It is all about rights now, the rights of the mentally ill as defined by the gurus of PPC (Psychiatric Political Correctness), and that does not include the right to protection. There is the right of female patients to do what they want with their own bodies, which translates as having sex with any and everyone for a cigarette. The right to reproduce, with total disregard for the effects on the children who will end up in care. The right of the mentally ill, sorry, normal variants, to make their own decisions, coincidentally very often the decisions the psychiatrist wants them to make. Families who ask questions are branded "difficult", and those voicing a different opinion risk being deprived of any information, on the convenient grounds of confidentiality. It may also deprive the patient of the family's support, but it is all for the cause.

YET not so long ago the greatest tragedy for the mentally ill was that they were snubbed by their public and deserted by their families. With no one to speak for them, they were open to the excesses of those who were charged with their care. Women locked up for a lifetime for the crime of giving illegitimate birth, lobotomies carried out, experimentation and mega-dosing with drugs — all terrible crimes against defenceless people. The excesses of the past had to be stopped, but the pendulum has swung to the other extreme. The current crop of psychiatrists have proved themselves no better than those who harmed their patients in the past. Only different. The Tories stand rightly accused of abusing those least able to fend for themselves, but to their equal shame so too do the advocates of PPC. They sleep together in a truly unwholy alliance: political expediency and political correctness feeding off each other. May they both be vanquished soon, or God help us all, the normal and the normal variants alike.

Meg Henderson is a journalist based in Scotland

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Nico Kiasashvili

# Georgian love of English

RARELY has dedication to English literature found such a brave, disinterested voice as in the life of Nico Kiasashvili, who has died in his native Georgia, aged 68. He was known internationally for his critical work on Shakespeare and James Joyce, but back in his homeland his triumph was in making modern English literature available and relevant in a suspicious, anti-literary Soviet society. His translations included "Giacomo Joyce" back in 1969; Harold Pinter's "The Caretaker" in 1973; Orwell's *Animal Farm* in 1981 and he completed

Joyce's *Ulysses*, just before he died. Born in Tbilisi, the Georgian capital, he imbued a passion for English theatre from his actor parents. As an 11-year-old he witnessed the Stalinist purges of 1937 which wiped out a quarter of Georgia's Union of Writers and led to the arrest, exile or execution of 260,000 Georgians from a population of 3.5 million. In 1953 he married Meri Taisishvili daughter of a noble family, whose father had been murdered in the purges for allegedly toasting a Polish ambassador. She became a distinguished English philologist.

Nico Kiasashvili's great success was to convince the Moscow authorities that he would make a good cultural attaché at the Soviet embassy in London. Between 1959 and 1962, combining his congenial personality with knowledge and affection for modern literature and art, he forged long friendships with a number of eminent figures, including C.P. Snow. But his diplomatic career was short-lived. He recalled how his increasingly paranoid colleagues believed that the clattering of his typewriter was Morse-code, transmitting to the British. After refusing to serve the KGB under his dip-

lomatic cover, he was summarily returned to the University of Tbilisi and never posted abroad again. He managed to maintain informal contacts in Moscow which allowed him to travel abroad to conferences, and further developed his network of academic and artistic friends while visitors to his Tbilisi flat included Snow, Arthur Miller and Allen Ginsberg. Never tempted to stay in the West, he said that while away he, like Joyce of Dublin, always felt nostalgic for the sounds and smells of his native city. He produced a tireless flow of translations,

plus articles on Joyce, Shakespeare, Yeats, Eliot, Golding, some with risky titles like *DH Lawrence Should Be Translated!* (1974). He founded the Shakespeare Seminar at Tbilisi University in 1970 and from 1976 was the only Soviet representative on the International Shakespeare Association executive. In 1982 he became head of Tbilisi's English department, inspiring his students, protecting his staff and ensuring that the dissident Zviad Gamsakhurdia never lost his lecturing job. As a member of Georgia's Union of Theatre Artists he defended avant-garde playwrights and directors like the Rustaveli Theatre's Robert Sturua — who now frequently directs in London's West End.

In 1988 he was in Britain for a conference. By then his salary was worth two dollars a month, but he still carried a camera with pictures left for old friends. Pinter, Lady Antonia Fraser, Tom Stoppard, C.P. Snow's son and Sam Wanamaker. He leaves a son Zurab and a daughter, Maya. She now carries the torch her father left in the Caucasus as the British Council's senior representative in Tbilisi. In 1994 in Stratford-on-Avon Kiasashvili recalled how, as a

child he overheard his parents discussing the disappearance of his uncle during the purges. "The boy may repeat at school," they whispered, "what we say at home." During their diligent, tactful son's life he was to repeat what many artists said, and those he selected were among the best of the English language could produce.

Tamara Dragadze and Peter Nazaryth  
Nico Kiasashvili, professor of English literature, born June 8, 1926; died March 14, 1996.

### Letter

Philip Purser writes: I came across George Mackay Brown (*obituary*, April 15) when a magazine I wrote for ran one of his stories. It was spare, seemingly artless and yet so powerful. My wife fell for his stories and his poetry even more thoroughly, so one holiday we made a pilgrimage to Orkney. When we met him in the Stromness Hotel bar I was carrying a review copy of his latest novel, *Magnus*. His eyes went straight to it, we didn't realise that his own copies hadn't yet arrived. He must have been burning to look at it, but after a quick peek he concentrated on us. He was shy, charming and considerate. We had the children with us, including Harriet in a wheelchair, someone strange sometimes leave out of the chat. Not George. Without any condescension or striving to think up topics, he included her all the time. Since he had the local habit of ending everything he said with the name of the person he was addressing, she was doubly delighted.

Marcel Bleustein-Blanchet

# The man who put the gloss in advertising

IF CONSUMERISM is a bulldozer mercilessly ploughing its way through the 20th century, then Marcel Bleustein-Blanchet, who has died aged 89, was one of the people at its controls. Founder in 1936 of the Publicis agency, France's first advertising agency, Bleustein-Blanchet is credited in France with transforming vulgar advertising into sophisticated artform. He was a pioneer of news radio, advertising jingles and quiz shows. He was the first man to put Edith Piaf and Maurice Chevalier on the wireless, and after General de Gaulle's first, wooden, television broadcast in the late fifties he told the president: "When you go into people's homes, you take your cap off."



Blanchet... on the terrace of the Publicis building and (right) one of the company's pioneering ads for brasseries

Blanchet was the youngest of nine children and his Russian Jewish parents sold furniture in Montmartre. Marcel had playground punch-ups with Alexis Moncorge — the future actor, Jean Gabin before leaving school at the age of 14. His school certificate stated that he could "read, write and count". Six years later he left the Adolphe Lévitran furniture company to work as a publicity agent. "You could sell hot air," his father apparently observed. By the end of the 1920s Marcel had become a million-

aire. Having founded the Publicis agency, and noting what was going on in the United States, he pioneered French radio advertising. He came up with legendary slogans like "Gabriel" before leaving school at the age of 14. His school certificate stated that he could "read, write and count". Six years later he left the Adolphe Lévitran furniture company to work as a publicity agent. "You could sell hot air," his father apparently observed. By the end of the 1920s Marcel had become a million-

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Blanchet... on the terrace of the Publicis building and (right) one of the company's pioneering ads for brasseries

### Birthdays

Joan Bakewell, broadcaster, 63; Ellen Barkin, American actress, 42; Lord Camoys, deputy chairman, Barclays, 74; Colette Wedd, 58; Lyne Franks, publicist, 48; Sir John Harvey-Jones, industrial troubleshooter, 72; Vince Hill, singer, 64; Sir Geoffrey Johnson-Smith, Conservative MP, 72; Richard Kershaw, broadcaster, 62; Donald MacCormick, television presenter, 57; Margaret Maden, educationist, 58; Ruth Madoc, actress, 53; Queen Margrethe of Denmark, 56; Concetta Martínez, tennis player, 54; Spike Milligan, comedian and writer, 78; Barry Nelson, actor, 76; Jimmy Osmond, singer, 33; Sir Geoffrey Owen, former editor, Financial Times, 62; Brian Peppiatt, banker, 62; Judge Ross, QC, Justice Advocate General, 60; Gerry Rafferty, singer and songwriter, 49; Constance Shacklock, mezzo-soprano, 83; Dusty Springfield, rock singer, 58; Dr William Stearn, botanist, 85; Leo Tindemans, former prime minister of Belgium, 74; Prof Barbara Tinard, educationist, 70; Sir Peter Ustinov, actor and writer, 78.

### Death Notices

MAURICE Kathleen GIBB, of Preswath Moor, died peacefully on April 11th 1996 in Harrogate House, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, aged 80 years. R.I.P. Requiescat in pace. Burial at Harrogate Cemetery on Tuesday 16th April at 10.30am. Please contact Mrs Mauduit, Harrogate, for details. Donations to Harrogate House, 56, Harrogate, North Yorkshire. Enquiries to Harrogate House, 56, Harrogate, North Yorkshire. Tel: 01434 772141.

Gordon Pask

# Dandy of cybernetics

GORDON Pask, who has died aged 67, spent his life developing an elegant theory of learning that stands without peer. His achievement was to establish a unifying framework that subsumes the subjectivity of human experience and the objectivity of scientific tradition. Sponsored by governments and industries on both sides of the Atlantic, his life-long research spanned biological computing, artificial intelligence, cognitive science, logic, linguistics, psychology, and artificial life. His was an original approach to age-old questions of how the human organism learns from its environment and relates to others through language. Andrew Gordon Speedie-Pask was born in Derby, the son of a partner in Pask, Cornish and Smart, a wholesale fruit business in Covent Garden. The biographies from Pask's six book jackets mention Liverpool Technical Col-

lege, Cambridge University, the University of London, the Open University. But one sees that these were simply locations, and his many advanced degrees were souvenirs of work that was entirely his own creation. He placed himself squarely in the tradition of cybernetics, while at the same time charging ahead in a direction that was wholly new. Cybernetics was named in the 1940s as the discipline concerned with information, feedback, identity and purpose. These concerns were independent of whether the system in question was an animal or machine, individual or population. This domain suited Pask, not the least because it was not mainstream. Standing out was what he wanted. When I first saw him, at one of the many academic research labs around the world where he played the role of consultant-catalyst, he stood out. He was dressed,

as always, as an Edwardian dandy in double-breasted jacket, bow-tie and cane. He was slight of build, but the power of his mind made him huge. His courtly manner softened the intimidation of his probing questions and his fierce interest in precision and speed. When Pask built his machines and his theory, his analogue was not at odds with artificial intelligence, which arose from the seeds of cybernetics but presumes that knowledge is a commodity to pluck from the environment and stick in a cubbyhole. Pask's learning environments, whether for entertainment touch-typing or statistics, viewed the human as part of a resonance that goes beyond the human, through the environment and apparatus, back through the human and around again. For Pask, that is the interaction by which we understand each



Pask... intense

other when we speak or dance together. He specified how this works in detail in his many publications on conversation theory. Pask's criticisms of artificial intelligence were publicly polite but probing. His private view was that it was impoverished and could not achieve its goal of reproducing intelligence. He had himself reproduced intelligent behaviour with electro-mechanical machines soldered by his own hand in the 1950s. By realising that intelligence resides in in-

teraction, not inside a head or box, his path was clear. To those who didn't understand his stance, the value of his work was invisible. From those who adopted his ideas, it is hard to know the extent of his influence. The card catalogues of many libraries list his books, which somehow are missing from the shelves. Pask was capable of great kindness and sometimes utter disregard for the individual. His theory shows how conflict is a source of cognitive energy and thereby a means for moving a system forward more rapidly. He seemed willing to foster conflict around him, even if it drove him and others further than physiology would prefer. His touch-typing tutor pushed the learner harder and harder, to the point where the rate of learning is greatest but also closest to the brink of system collapse. His students and collaborators were vastly changed by knowing him; some needed time to recover. While living so much in his (and others') heads, Pask had extraordinary sight and hearing and physical coordination. I can still feel the adrenaline as his passenger in an

Austin Mini. He followed the car ahead at a constant, harrowingly-close distance that was precisely maintained the entire route from Richmond to London. Pask double-checking all the way. His one-on-one conversations had a similar focus and commitment. From the intensity with which he lived, perhaps his own body suffered the most. Waking him for his evening dinner guests, after his long nights of work and short days of sleep, entailed a delicate balance of firmness and compassion. While waiting, I could review the fruits of his night's work — perhaps a new song lyric or research paper. Before the jacket and bow-tie and cane could go on, here was this mad and brilliant creature, all sinew, rising to gaze and demand of us, and of himself, once more. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth, daughters Amanda and Hermione, and grandson Nicholas.

Andrew Gordon Speedie-Pask, cybernetician, producer for the stage and lyricist, born June 28, 1928; died March 28, 1996.

### Jackdaw



right they have five chances left and one ball has been drawn already. Now only one person in 80 has any interest in the jackpot. Ball three reduces the interested population by a factor of 4/47, and one person in 921 survives. So halfway into the draw, one of 20,000 still have jackpot hopes. Ball four reduces this by 3/46 and we are down to one person in 14,125; ball five cuts the numbers by 2/45 and only one player in 317,814 remains. Finally the sixth ball reduces the survivors by 1/44 and only one person in 13,983,816 is left. That's your chance of winning: roughly one in 14 million. Yes, sure, but it's a big prize, isn't it? Ian Stewart, professor of mathematics at Warwick University, works out that it probably won't be you in the *Times Higher Education Supplement*. Professor Stewart, whose book *From Here To Infinity: a Guide to Today's Mathematics (OUP)* has just been published, reveals how to win the Lottery: get lucky.

### On the run

I WOKE TO a thunderbolt so violent I thought lightning had torn into Herod's house. I sprang from my bed and became entangled in mosquito net, tearing it from me. Across the square, through the fuzziest of rain, came a single, demented scream. Dunstan and the carriers stood up from the fire, chattering in panic. Someone was out in the rain, running over the roof, screaming as loud as the thunder. He stomped on to the balcony and I could hear it was Herod, shouting like a deaf man about what, unable to hear himself. His screaming sparked hysteria. Dunstan and my carriers tried to shout above him, to make themselves heard, and I could hear Elisa moaning, "God, oh God." Then, as the thunder broke again, they ran out into the storm, shaking the house as they jumped. Moments later Dunstan was back, alone. He bent down in the doorway to our room, blocking out the light from the fire. "Edward,

Edward." He spoke in a half-whisper, insistent. "There's been lightning and it struck the other house. The one with the sick children." He caught his breath, sucking in air in asthmatic gulps, wheezing with the smoke. "The children?" "Flouana's, for one, his daughter, three more children. All dead." We stared at each other, helpless. We both knew that the Liawep, still steeped in the ways of bloody revenge, would now seek a "culprit", and that our presence alone guaranteed us that status. Our lives were now in grave danger... An hour before daybreak, Dunstan led the way at a run... We ran and ran and ran. For an hour or more it was dark in the jungle, until the morning warmed slowly through. Ahead I could see the carriers twisting down the mountain, their back issuing steam, breath hissing and heaving, a mule train on a cold, high morning... Dunstan looked over his shoulder, hunted. Above, the sky was lightening. "We have to keep mov-

ing. "Do you think they're after us?" "Not yet, but soon..." Four days later we arrived back at Wanakipa, where the carriers lived, and from where we'd started. They were jubilant. Back on home turf, they no longer feared ambush... Two hours later, three Liawep men hauled into the village... They demanded to know what had killed their people. No one had ever died in this way... One of them pointed at me. "What were you doing in our village?" What should I say? I felt sick with remorse yet kept silent, swallowing my conscience. They persisted. Why had I been taking photographs of their mountain? Did my camera have special powers? But they were outnumbered, and knew it. They left the way they had come, shuffling in the dust, their shoulders humped and rounded, bags dragging. Edward Marriot reports from Papua New Guinea for *Esquire*. He went to study the "lost tribe" of the Liawep, a mission he swiftly abandoned.

### Fit 'n' trim

10 Easy Ways To Lose Fat  
Great Sex Tonight — 12 undercover secrets  
The Ultimate Fitness Test  
Sculpt Your Arms By Summer  
Be (Much) Better Than The Average Man  
Update Your Wardrobe  
Have Perfect Skin  
Impress Your Boss  
60 Second Stress Relief

### Jumbo studies

THE Elephant as "Physical" Other — Does the Elephant Exist? Zoological Hegemony vs. Cultural Fabrication. Pachyderm "Evolution": Eurochronocities and Eurocentric Linearity in the late (post)modern zoological script. Tracking the elephant through texts: Western Visuality and Olfactory Perception. Viceroy-on-Elephant or Elephant-on-Viceroy? Accidents and the Uncertainties of Domination in some Durbars of the Late British Raj. The Elephant as Eurocentric Object: The elephant and the Lion: the Metaphor of Binariness in Early Medieval Texts. "Hunting the Beloved Other": The elephant as Paradigmatic Problematic of Conservationist Conversations

### MensHealth

10 Easy Ways To Lose Fat  
Great Sex Tonight — 12 undercover secrets  
The Ultimate Fitness Test  
Sculpt Your Arms By Summer  
Be (Much) Better Than The Average Man  
Update Your Wardrobe  
Have Perfect Skin  
Impress Your Boss  
60 Second Stress Relief

### In Memoriam

ANDREW Gordon Speedie-Pask, cybernetician, producer for the stage and lyricist, born June 28, 1928; died March 28, 1996.

### Ball games

WHAT IS YOUR chance of winning the lottery? Let us eavesdrop on the British public as the numbers are drawn. Here comes the first ball: all punters who did not choose that number are immediately out of the running. There are six ways to be right out of 49 choices, so on average only 6/49 of the population remains in the game. One reason for betting on the lottery is the excitement of the draw — well, roughly six people out of seven get very little excitement. Here comes the second ball: surviving punters have five chances out of 48 of getting this one

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# Finance Guardian

## Bank revives rates battle

### Cash hoard seen as inflation threat

Larry Elliott  
Economics Editor

**T**HE Bank of England is preparing for a renewed battle with the Government over interest rates after posting a public warning yesterday that strong growth in the money supply poses a threat to the fight against inflation.

Deputy governor Howard Davies said yesterday that the

Bank was concerned that the strong expansion of cash and bank accounts reflected pent-up spending power which could be unleashed over the coming months.

National Statistics showed that the winter slowdown in the economy prevented Britain's manufacturers from pushing up their tariffs. Output prices rose by 0.2 per cent in March, bringing the annual rate of increase down from 3.7 per cent to 3.4 per cent, the lowest level since December 1994. Excluding food, drink, tobacco and petrol — a better guide to the trend — prices remained unchanged last month, but dropped slightly on an annual basis to 3.4 per cent.

Evidence that the weakness of demand is keeping factory gate prices in check is underlined by a gloomy forecast today from the Building Employers Confederation, which predicts that 20,000 more jobs

will be lost this year as a result of the recession in the construction industry.

Some support for the Bank's anxiety about rising consumer demand emerged, however, from the monthly survey by the British Retail Consortium. High street activity strengthened last month, even after the earlier incidence of Easter this year was stripped out, the BRC said.

The Bank has kept a low profile on interest rates over the past six months after its defeat at the hands of Chancellor Kenneth Clarke last summer. It now agrees that Mr Clarke was right not to increase the cost of borrowing last spring and that at the moment the "dials are set right".

But, with some City analysts expecting Mr Clarke to

use the sluggishness of manufacturing and construction as an excuse for a cut in rates to boost the Government's political fortunes, the Bank is again starting to voice its concern.

Mr Davies denied that policy was "excessively cautious", and added: "Nor do I think we can reasonably be accused of facing backward and fighting exhausted armies from the past. Inflation may not be resurgent, but I am reluctant confidently to pronounce its obituary."

Mr Davies said the build-up of cash in bank and building society accounts was significantly larger than the Bank would expect individuals to want in the long term.

The cash could "undoubtedly" be used to finance

higher consumer spending which could in turn lead to an increase in inflation.

Mr Davies said: "And there are, of course, other factors which may influence consumers this year, for example, the reductions in personal taxation which took effect last week, and a variety of one-off payments — windfalls from building society conversions and mergers, maturing Tesco and rebates from utility companies."

"All of this is good news, in one sense. It adds support to our view that the economy generally will pick up in the second half of the year. But what we must ensure is that the pick-up is not so large or so rapid as to threaten the achievement of the Government's inflation target."

### Notebook

## Death notice may be exaggerated



Edited by  
Alex Brummer

**T**HE death of inflation, as propagated by Roger Bootle of HSBC Markets, is an interesting theory, gaining new adherents all the time.

Indeed, the latest producer price figures — the lowest annual rate since December 1994 — would appear to confirm the Bootle thesis. But there is an alternative school of thought, enjoining the Bank of England's deputy governor, Howard Davies, at the Jewish Care business breakfast, that the old enemy is still there, but well disguised. No one is closely watching the money supply M4 any longer, because it preaches a different message to the headline measures of inflation.

In the Davies view, expounded over his smoked salmon omelette, inflation remains a monetary phenomenon and the 10 per cent growth in broad money — which includes such items as building society deposits — is a potential worry. Mr Davies is right to ponder how long the cash bonuses will stay on deposit and if they will be turned into higher consumption.

Certainly, when the current monetary regime was put into place, after the UK's election from the ERM, monetary measures were an essential part of the decision-making. But, with average earnings under control and the economy slackening, the Bank has tended to take its inflation signals from the output gap, the capacity constraints in the economy, rather than the monetary indicators.

The gilt market already is telling a different story, in the shape of an upward adjustment in yields this year. A new front in the battle between Threadneedle and Downing Streets could just be opening.

### Train spotting

**T**HE Railtrack pathfinder, with its 263 pages of small print, is filled with items that will shock the sensibility of those who believe in a fairer Britain.

There are sweatheart housing loans to directors (now repaid), an overgenerous bonus scheme and a long-term incentive plan which could result in remuneration packages doubling as the cost savings come through. This is before one starts to grapple with the intricacies of a property portfolio that can be valued at £1.4 billion, if working as well as investment property is included.

None of this, nor the dividend giveaway, worth a potential 15-20 per cent rate of return on the investment, will please those who oppose privatisation on political grounds. Indeed, in some

respects the Government has been ill-advised by SBC-Warburg, which has bent over backwards to ensure it does not have a flop on its hands.

With each succeeding intervention by the Labour Party, the taxpayers' benefit from the sale — in the shape of PSBR reduction — is pared back. The irony now is that as Labour ups the political ante with a campaign and the insistence on a Commons debate, it may also increase the eventual costs for Railtrack's substantial investment programme.

For those prepared, however, to put the moral outrage to one side and consider Railtrack's possibilities in the private sector, the prospects could be quite alluring. It is a classic utility business with possibilities for ratcheting down costs through new technologies such as modern signalling systems; ending Spanish practices in the labour force and outsourcing some services.

Who knows, Railtrack like another transport firm British Airways, could well prosper in the private sector; investors may kick themselves if they miss out on anything other than political grounds.

### City awakening

**I**T IS 10 years since the City's system of self-regulation was introduced. Finally, much to the bemusement of those of us who have chronicled examples of City excess over the period, one of the Square Mile's "fundamental" weaknesses has admitted the system doesn't work.

The Investment Management Regulatory Organisation, which keeps an eye on fund managers and their wares, has come to the startling conclusion that its member firms should "put investors' interest first" and remove "redundant regulatory requirements". It wants to reward firms which display a distinct "compliance culture" by not harassing them with routine checks and unnecessary paperwork.

IMRO's proposals — billed as its "Third Regulatory Plan" — are surprising in the sense that they do not appear to have been carved into the door when the watchdog set up its office in the first place. It is a common knowledge in the City that while individual investors and market professionals have been inundated with meaningless bureaucracy, legislative shortcomings have provided an open road for wrongdoers, as the late Robert Maxwell discovered.

After a year of record bids and mega-seeks, for instance, no one seems to have been disciplined for insider dealing, by the DTI or Stock Exchange, since 1984. At the same time, technical breaches of impenetrable City rule books have besmirched the names of some of the country's top (and most trustworthy) financial institutions.

IMRO's response now has the appearance of a political ploy. Its big idea is to set up a "pilot study", and see how things work out. The next government might work things out rather quicker.

## Regulator says big investors don't need outside policing

Don Atkinson

**S**OME of Britain's biggest fund managers could take responsibility for regulating themselves, freeing City supervisors to concentrate on problem cases and on firms dealing in highly speculative derivative products.

Plans announced yesterday by IMRO, the investment management regulator, would shift the burden of monitoring low-risk companies to firms' in-house detectives.

IMRO chief executive Philip Thorpe, announcing the agency's regulatory plan for 1996/7, supported recent calls for greater public instruction on the subject of personal finance. He urged that a database be established to gather details of any educational initiatives following last week's suggestion by a Treasury-backed task force, that finan-

cial matters should be taught in secondary schools.

Mr Thorpe's two-pronged attack — self-monitoring and advising investors — aims to liberate resources for the intensive monitoring of "problem" companies. Of IMRO's 11,000 plus members, 50 are thought ready to take part in a pilot "self-regulation" scheme.

Some 10 per cent of IMRO's members, added Mr Thorpe, had "recurring problems with regulation because of their size or inclination. The initiative would free IMRO's 70-strong staff for watching firms posing an above average risk to investors.

© The Personal Investment Authority plans to lighten the regulatory burden on less commercially oriented friendly societies, particularly small institutions catering for "affinity" groups, such as people in the same trade or profession.

## 60,000 recent savers reap windfall

### IAN KING on Bristol & West's new deal

**S**PECULATORS who have only just opened accounts with Bristol & West Building Society, as well as investors with less than £100 in their accounts, are set to receive windfalls after the society confirmed yesterday it had agreed to a £600 million takeover by Bank of Ireland. Britain's ninth-biggest building society said it expects the bonanza, which will come in either cash, shares or a mixture, to be paid after the deal has been completed in mid-1997. More than 1.1 million

savers and borrowers will receive up to £1,000 each. The society is the fourth this year to abandon the century-old principle of mutuality. The Woolwich, which last month dismissed chief executive Peter Robinson, Alliance & Leicester and Northern Rock have all announced plans to float on the stock market, promising similar payouts to members.

But unlike the other three, Bristol & West will not be restructuring the terms of its payout to exclude the people Mr Robinson dubbed "speculators", who open accounts in the hope of receiving windfall gains. John Burke, Bristol & West's chief executive, said borrowers and investors with share accounts at the start of business yesterday would receive at least £250. This includes the estimated 60,000 speculators who have opened accounts since the start of the year.

In addition, any qualifying member with less than £100 in their account will also receive a bonus, provided their accounts have been topped up to at least £100 by the end of the year. Mr Burke said: "These are loyal members who have played an important part in the growth of the organisation, and they should be given the chance to build up their accounts. Morally, I feel happier with that than with rewarding speculators."

Bristol & West chairman Lord Armstrong said Bank of Ireland's approach had been the most suitable for members and staff, and he played down suggestions that another bidder might have been in the hand and, if another came flying out of the bush, we should take a great deal of convincing.

At the same time, Bank of Ireland chief executive Patrick Molloy, who pledged that there would be no job losses as a result of the deal, said the bank had not ruled out further acquisitions in the sector. Birmingham & Midlands, Britain's 11th-biggest society and a favourite for takeover or conversion,

## Nomura defends £250m sell-off

Patrick Donovan  
City Editor

**N**OMURA intends to fight allegations that it manipulated the Sydney stock market, after questioning one of its traders involved in selling £250 million worth of Australian shares just before the market closed on March 29 — the final day of the year-end for the Tokyo-based institution.

The transaction, which was carried out through Nomura's Hong Kong office, sparked an investigation by the Australian Securities Commission. The Australian Stock Exchange requested a formal inquiry because of the way the share "dumping" hit prices just before the market's close.

Despite the inquiry, Nomura appears privately convinced that there is no case to answer after discussing the matter with the trader involved, Duncan Moss. Described as a "medium level trader", Mr Moss will return to his post in Hong Kong later this week.

Mr Moss, who is officially on the payroll of the London office, is understood to have been on a prearranged holiday in the UK. Compliance officials from Nomura's City headquarters are understood to have approached the London Stock Exchange to explain their involvement.

## Pace set to make millions at mill for its founders

Nicholas Barnister  
Technology Editor

**P**ACE Micro Technology, a leading maker of decoders for satellite and cable television, is coming to the market later this year in a move which will make multi-millionaires of its founders, David Hood and Barry Rubery.

The two met 20 years ago when Mr Hood was working at Baird Television. "I didn't work for Baird but managed to wangle my way into its cycling team," Mr Rubery said.

past nine months. Pre-tax profits during the period tripled to £126 million. The company is expected to be worth well over £200 million when dealing in its shares starts in May or June. This is likely to value Mr Hood's stake in the company at at least £130 million and Mr Rubery's at £50 million.

The company, the largest volume maker of satellite receivers in Europe and the world's first volume manufacturer of digital decoders — sees as the next generation of home video — sells about 80 per cent of its products overseas.

## Names 'furious' over secret clawback deal with Lloyd's

Pauline Springett

**A**FURIOUS row has erupted among Lloyd's Names over an application today for the adjournment of a critical court case to decide if Lloyd's is allowed to seize compensation payments made by courts to Names over their losses.

The High Court hearing has been eagerly awaited since early last year when Lloyd's tried to alter the terms of Names' so-called premium trust deeds to allow it first call on damages awards. Damages awarded so far are being held in solicitors' escrow accounts, causing Names with losses further afield to be aggrieved.

The proposed adjournment has triggered a flood of calls and letters to action groups from furious Names, who dispute anything that smacks of a furive deal with Lloyd's. Clive Francis, an action group leader who opposes the postponement said: "Names are hopping mad."

But Damon de Lizio, chairman of the Fairfax action group, which has also been successful in the courts and has £125 million in an escrow account, said the negotiations between the action groups and Lloyd's were continuing in good faith.

There is no benefit to the Names at this stage in going to court on this issue, if we win we would be no better off," he said, explaining that Lloyd's would simply appeal. The case would then continue until after the settlement offer had been finalised anyway.

Australia 1.8450	France 7.46	Italy 2.522	Singapore 2.08
Austria 15.41	Germany 2.200	Malta 0.5360	South Africa 0.8
Belgium 42.25	Greece 352.02	Netherlands 2.47	Spain 164.00
Canada 1.9925	Hong Kong 11.45	New Zealand 2.16	Sweden 1.96
Cyprus 0.7025	India 51.61	Norway 8.51	Switzerland 1.79
Denmark 6.56	Ireland 0.94	Portugal 227.00	Turkey 105.800
Finland 7.15	Israel 4.71	Saudi Arabia 5.82	USA 1.4725

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**OUTLOOK/**  
Railtrack won't profit if more passengers take the train and faces a stiff battle to cut labour costs — but it is hot in property, finds **Chris Barrie**



John Edmonds, Railtrack chief executive, Bob Horton, chairman, and Norman Broadhurst, finance director, at yesterday's pathfinder prospectus launch

PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

# Big spender priced to sell

IN one of those ironies particular to politics, the Newbury bypass protests are being cited in the City as one of the few recent headline events to help the privatisation of Railtrack, owner of the nation's railway lines and stations.

Logic within the Square Mile holds that protests such as Newbury's make it more difficult to win planning permission for motorways. As congestion worsens, so rail

traffic should increase and Railtrack's principal source of revenue should rise accordingly. This optimism is strikingly absent from the pathfinder prospectus published yesterday. The 250-page document warns potential investors that "passenger access income is unlikely to benefit materially from any increase in passenger demand". This is partly because rail use is expected to rise, albeit

by a lowly 2 per cent a year, in line with travel generally, but to the benefit of the companies running the trains. There is considerable scope for train companies to reschedule services to soak up that amount of extra demand without negotiating further track access which would bring Railtrack more cash. There is hefty spending ahead too. Railtrack has pencilled in spending of

£3.25 billion to maintain track, £761 million to maintain stations and depots, and £237 million on day-to-day maintenance. As if to emphasise the crumbling nature of the railway infrastructure, the prospectus points out the company is responsible for bridges, viaducts, tunnels, embankments, cuttings, retaining walls, culverts and sea defences. "Many were constructed more than 100 years ago," it says.

Investors are being invited to buy into a company with limited prospects for growth. Looking backwards, investors have seen rail's share of the market for personal transport fall from 17 per cent in 1954 to 5 per cent in 1994/95. Looking forwards, the outlook may well be brighter — both political parties support more rail use.

**BRISTOL & WEST**

## AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR MEMBERS OF BRISTOL & WEST

As you may already know, the Board of the Bristol & West Building Society yesterday announced that it intends to recommend to Members that Bristol & West should become part of Bank of Ireland Group.

Customers of Bristol & West are being sent a Notice explaining the reasons for the decision together with a leaflet, *Answers to Your Questions*.

A free Information Line has been set up on 0800 886633. Lines will be open from 8.00 am to 8.00 pm Monday to Friday and 8.00 am to 1.00 pm on Saturdays.

Full details about the transaction will be circulated in due course in a Transfer Document for consideration at a Special General Meeting of the Society when eligible Members will have the opportunity to vote on the proposal.

Members should note, however, that no decisions are to be taken on this matter at the Society's Annual General Meeting on 19 April 1996.

The Government and its advisers have done their best to kickstart the deal by offering investors a dividend, in the autumn, of 223 million paid from profits earned while the company was in state hands.

By pricing the retail offer at a discount to the institutional price, ministers hope to woo investors uneasy about the railway industry's poor image. Priced to sell, the company once valued at \$6 billion is now being touted at about \$1.8 billion.

Yet investors may find Railtrack's incentivised managers unearthing fresh value from the company's portfolio of 20,000 miles of track, 40,000 bridges and viaducts and tunnels, 2,500 stations and 90 maintenance depots. The prospectus is littered with warnings about the need for hefty investment to maintain this infrastructure, but there is huge potential for cost cutting and property sale.

What emerges, therefore, is a classic utility but without the risks of unstable regulation which troubled, at times, water and electricity shares on their otherwise meteoric rise. Unlike these industries,

RAILTRACK	
Year to 31/3/96	
• Workforce:	11,350
• Turnover:	£2.3bn
• Profit before tax:	£272m
• Net assets:	£2,442m
• Total property value:	£1,800m

\*Adjusted for capital raised

rail has been operating under its regulator for some time prior to privatisation and there should be fewer regulatory hiccups.

Its chairman, Bob Horton, spoke yesterday of how Railtrack hoped to cut costs by signing new contracts with contractors and improving efficiency. Staff levels and working practices must come top of Railtrack's list. Other utilities have cut staff by over 25 per cent since privatisation, but Railtrack may face a rougher industrial relations battle.

Labour's commitment to using the existing regulatory structure to tighten its grip on Railtrack threatens the company's profitability. The gamble for investors is in deciding whether new Labour has the will to be genuinely tough, assuming it comes to power.

When prices started to fall, from the end of the 1980s, the third factor kicked in. Mortgages are normally taken out for a 25-year period, which means that owner-occupiers need job security, but the past 15 years have seen a structural change in the labour market.

The IER report says that historically, possession of a mortgage and employment each tend to reinforce each other, partly because of the incentive to keep up the payment and partly because the benefit system is more generous to tenants than to owner-occupiers.

But this relationship has started to break down, particularly for those former council house tenants attracted to owner-occupation by the right-to-buy programme. Despite all the cries of anguish from the

News in brief

### Norwich calls vote on membership cut-off

NORWICH UNION will be asking its three million members at the May annual meeting to vote on giving the society the option of introducing a cut-off date for membership.

If the UK's second largest mutual insurer decided to become a public limited company at a later date, this would exclude last-minute investors who had joined to cash in on conversion payouts. Chief executive Allan Bridgewater stressed yesterday that the amendment was simply a place of "prudent contingency planning" and did not imply any decision had been taken to demutualise.

The group's future strategy, including the possibility of a flotation, was still under review, he said. No decision would be announced until "well into 1996". The amendment was necessary, he said, because the directors of a mutual insurer, unlike those in building societies, do not have the authority to introduce a cut-off date. — *Jill Papworth*

### Texas boss collects £1m

LADBROKE, the leisure and gambling group, paid more than £80,000 for the first nine months of last year to John Coleman, the Texas Homecare chief who resigned when his job was eliminated after the business was sold to Sainsbury.

Mr Coleman was paid £200,000 for his contribution to the sale of the DIY operation, £100,000 compensation for loss of office and £106,000 in long-term incentives, Ladbroke said in its annual report. His basic salary was £140,000. He has also been given dispensation to exercise share options in the year to next September. With Ladbroke shares up 1 1/2 p at 155p yesterday, the options would yield just over £32,000 profit. — *Lisa Buckingham*

### Nigeria a 'fraud hotspot'

THREE-QUARTERS of British firms would not do business in Nigeria because of its reputation for fraud, according to a survey of "fraud hotspots". One-quarter said the same about eastern Europe, Russia and other parts of the former Soviet bloc.

The survey, carried out by the accountancy firm KPMG through its offices in 18 countries, found the United States, Italy and Singapore were rated by international companies as potential fraud risks.

More than half of those questioned said they knew of at least one incident of fraud in their organisations in the past year. Forty-eight per cent said fraud was a big problem, with more than half expecting the problem to worsen. — *Dan Atkinson*

### Oil for troubled waters

EUROPE'S biggest oil company, Shell, which was pilloried last year for the attempted sinking of the Brent Spar oil rig and its involvement in Nigeria, admits in its annual report that it needs to gain a better understanding of the world.

Writing in the annual report to shareholders, published yesterday, chairman John Jennings says: "We learned in 1995 that we need to have greater external focus if we are to create a better acceptance of the group's business... Group companies must inform and communicate better with the public."

Referring to the group's "license to operate", Mr Jennings writes: "The events of the past year demonstrated the need to gain broader understanding and acceptance of our activities."

Mr Jennings defends Shell's refusal to get involved in the fight to save the life of Ogoni campaigners led by Ken Saro-Wiwa: "Whereas there are those who criticise the group for non-interference in Nigeria, there is also considerable opinion that finds political interference unacceptable." — *Roger Coove*

### Amey on right lines

AMEY, the management and maintenance services group, ended its second year as a listed company with a rise in profit from \$5.12 million to \$5.33 million. Chairman Neil Ashley said the group had no debts and was able to respond quickly to business opportunities. The largest acquisition to date, Amey Railways, was being funded without asking shareholders for cash and Mr Ashley believed that it would enhance the group's earnings per share. — *Tony May*

### Hardy shoots set to thrive

HARDY Oil & Gas is in talks aimed at expanding its portfolio of oil and gas fields, after selling its US operations for £115 million to a new firm called Acquiror, backed by Enron Corp.

Chairman Douglas Baker said the cash raised from the sale would help to develop its three main fields: in the North Sea, Bayu in the Timor Sea and Miano in Pakistan. He also aims to strengthen the group's hand in talks to expand elsewhere.

Mr Baker said the decision to get out of the US market — though the group does retain options over various Gulf of Mexico opportunities — had been taken because the cash could be used better in funding other projects. — *Tony May*

### Swab owner has new targets

THE American company which bought South Western Electricity for £1.1 billion in September last year expects to have sold nearly half the company within the next two months. Bill Dahlberg, president and chairman of Atlanta-based Southern Company of America, said his company would retain control of Swab and needs in "other quality companies".

Mr Dahlberg, interviewed on the BBC's Financial World Tonight programme, did not rule out buying another British electricity or water company. He refused to comment on a possible bid for South West Water, already targeted by Wessex Water and Severn Trent. — *Nicholas Bannister*

## No home for Thatcher's children

LARRY ELLIOTT shows how new pattern of work has upset housing market

FOR some of those families trapped in negative equity, today's news from estate agents is that the housing market is at its strongest for two years may be the answer to their prayers.

If the evidence of higher turnover detected by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors translates into a sustained period of rising prices it will bring succour by floating a chunk of the million or so hard-pressed families out of debt.

Begging though this idea is, it has two main drawbacks. The first is that it is far too early to say whether the current signs of a pick-up in the housing market are the harbinger of a real recovery or simply another false dawn. The second is that for many homeowners, any improvement in market conditions will be too little too late.

Yoking these two factors together is the way the housing market has changed over the past 15 years in response to the increase in owner-occupation, financial deregulation and the shifting sands of the labour market.

New evidence published today by the Institute for Employment Research at the University of Warwick provides a summary of what has happened since the Conservatives were first elected in 1979.

Funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the

paper argues that the missionary zeal with which the first Thatcher government promoted the sale of council houses meant that during the 1980s "mortgages were increasingly granted to socio-economic groups for whom this form of housing finance had not been the norm in the decades earlier".

This trend was accelerated by financial deregulation, which brought an end to the old mortgage queue. In the five years from 1981 to 1986, the number of home loans granted to first-time buyers virtually doubled from 318,000 to 619,000, thereby fuelling house-price inflation. The IER says the increase in activity was self-feeding, because potential borrowers felt they had to jump on the bandwagon or risk being priced out of the market.

When prices started to fall, from the end of the 1980s, the third factor kicked in. Mortgages are normally taken out for a 25-year period, which means that owner-occupiers need job security, but the past 15 years have seen a structural change in the labour market.

The IER report says that historically, possession of a mortgage and employment each tend to reinforce each other, partly because of the incentive to keep up the payment and partly because the benefit system is more generous to tenants than to owner-occupiers.

But this relationship has started to break down, particularly for those former council house tenants attracted to owner-occupation by the right-to-buy programme. Despite all the cries of anguish from the

middle classes over the past few years, the IER report concludes that the recession of the 1990s was little different from any of those that preceded it, with "blue collar workers" bearing the brunt of the unemployment.

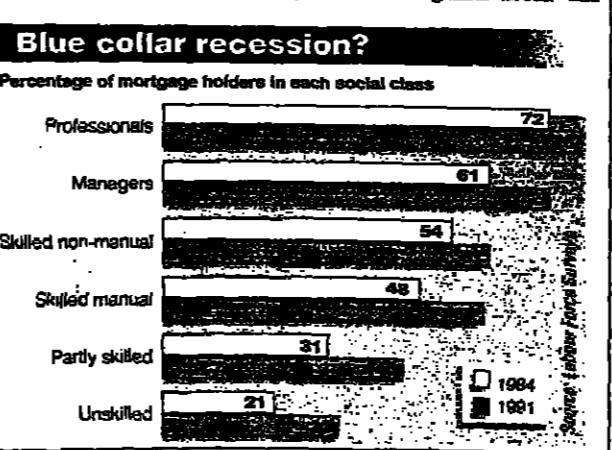
It adds that the transfer of former local authority homes to owner-occupiers would represent a net gain to society, provided that it resulted in the general standard of the maintenance of the housing stock being improved.

"But, if real incomes and job security have not improved for those groups who would normally have opted for local authority housing, then the net result is nothing more than an exchange of the travail associated with a council house tenancy for the anguish of realising difficult-to-meet mortgage repayments."

The economic consequence of this imminent disaster was the surge in repossessions in the early 1990s.

The Government is committed to a trio of objectives — deregulated labour markets, increasing home-ownership and diminished help for the unemployed — that are quite simply incompatible. Something has to give.

The political implication looks as if it will be equally profound. Thatcher's children feel betrayed: they are looking for somewhere else to pitch their tents.



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# Racing Mezzogiorno for Nell Gwyn

### Ron Cox says Wragg filly might prove a Classic contender

**E**IGHT 1,000 Guineas entries do battle in the Shadwell Stud Nell Gwyn Stakes at Newmarket today, but it will take something rather special from the winner to cause anything other than a minor tremor in ante-post betting on the first fillee Classic.

No winner of today's Group 3 race has gone on to take the Guineas since Oh So Sharp in 1985, although in 1993 Niche beat Sayyidati into third place in the Nell Gwyn before Sayyidati turned the tables on the winner in the Guineas.

Of today's Classic hopefuls, only Bint Salsabil, at 20-1, figures in the top five in William Hill's ante-post betting. Mezzogiorno is on offer at 25-1 and Maid For The Hills at 33-1.

At this stage it is largely guesswork as to which filly has made the greatest strides during the winter. My guess is it might be Mezzogiorno, who certainly looked the type to train on following just three runs at two years.

Trained by Geoff Wragg, who generally comes up with at least one genuine Classic contender each season, Mezzogiorno need only reproduce the form of her one length second to Rio Durida in the valuable Houghton Sales Stakes to close today.

She had Honest Guest two lengths back in third in a flat race runners, and the fifth-placed Tamin had previously finished ahead of My Melody Parkes in the Moylare Stud Stakes in Ireland.

My Melody Parkes ran well against useful opposition on several occasions, but there are others with more potential today.

### Wild Rumour, from the Chapple-Hyam stable successful with Mysair last year, is one of them. But she may have a brighter future over longer trips.

Bint Salsabil, so disappointing at Doncaster when deserted by Willie Carson, bounced back to win the Rockol Stakes at Newmarket in October. She may also be more of a stayer.

There were excuses for Darling Flame when she flopped in the Lowther Stakes, but there will be better fancied runners from the John Gosden stable this week.

Perhaps the three to concentrate on today are Mezzogiorno (3.40), Bint Salsabil and Maid For The Hills. The last-named did not reappear after winning in July, but David Loder's runners are usually very fit first time out.

The Gosden stable anticipates an exciting run from Emmard in Thursday's Craven Stakes, and will be disappointed if Secho (5.20) fails to make the grade in the Museum Maiden Stakes today.

Like much of the progeny of Sadler's Wells, Secho is not inclined to over-exert himself on the gallops. But he has sharpened his act in recent work and a shot at the Derby beckons.

Morgans Harbour has been included 9-2 favourite with Ladbrokes for the Stakis Casinos Scottish Grand National at Ayr on Saturday, but the 26 confirmed entries do not include Killashin.

John Manners, Killashin's owner-trainer, failed to declare his Elder Chase winner at yesterday's acceptance stage and was unable to get him reinstated.

Addington Boy, also engaged in a valuable novice chase at Ayr, and General Wolfe are both 5-1 with Ladbrokes, followed by Lo Streghon 6-5.



Under the gun... a field of 50,000 lines up for the 100th Boston Marathon, won by Kenya's Moses Tanui and Uta Pippig of Germany

# Kenya's Boston 1-2-3 party

### Duncan Mackay in Boston

**B**OSTON has not enjoyed a party like this since a crate of tea was thrown into the harbour just over 220 years ago. Moses Tanui led home more than 50,000 runners in the 100th staging of the world's oldest annual marathon, first held in 1897 when 15 runners started from a line drawn in the dirt.

Tanui, last year's runner-up, became the seventh Kenyan winner in nine years, triumphing in 2hr 09min

1:56sec to collect the \$100,000 (\$25,000) first prize and book a place in his country's Olympic team.

Indeed Kenya's decision to hold their Olympic trials within this event made it inevitable that Africans would dominate the race. Kenyans filled seven of the first 10 places including the top five, with Sammy Bitok second and Cosmas Ndeti, chasing an unprecedented fourth consecutive title.

Uta Pippig of Germany prevented Kenya's monopoly by leading the women's race triumphantly in 2hr 09min

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### Sport in brief

# England drop Preen

**C**AROL PREAN and Chen Xinhua, the two table tennis players who have qualified for Great Britain at the Olympic Games in July, were yesterday excluded from the squad to defend England's bronze-medal position at the European Championships in Bratislava from April 28, writes Richard Jones.

Preen has refused to play for England all season and Chen has returned to live in Fukien, taking his Yorkshire wife and children to China with him.

### Athletics

Iwan Thomas, the 6ft 3in Welshman, raced to fourth in the all-time UK 100 metres rankings with a 4.88sec victory at a meeting in Johannesburg. Only the British record holder David Grindley (44.47), the now retired Derek Redmond (44.50) and Roger Black (44.59) have run faster.

Thomas, who was handicapped by a hamstring injury last season when his best was 48.58, said: "I'm hoping to win at least a relay spot in Atlanta."

### South Korea's Hwang Youngjo, winner of the marathon at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992, is retiring because he did not win a place in the team for this year's Games. Last month, running with an ankle injury, he finished 29th in a competition to select the team.

### Basketball

Working's Alan Cunningham, who has won every major honour in the English game, is to retire at the end of the season. The 41-year-old, who had a successful spell in charge of the Bears from 1992 to 1995, is to resurrect his coaching career. Pippig now has a shoe contract worth \$250,000 and was paid a similar amount to run here.

## Newmarket with form for the televised events

5.00 Chief Contender	5.40 Advance Hunt
5.15 Woodford Lad	6.15 Advance Hunt
5.05 Passion For Life	6.45 Woodfin

5.20 Secho (6-5)

3.05 ANNIVERSARY STAKES (Class 2) 1m 40.25	1-10
3.15 ANNIVERSARY STAKES (Class 2) 1m 40.25	1-10
3.25 ANNIVERSARY STAKES (Class 2) 1m 40.25	1-10

3.40 ANNIVERSARY STAKES (Class 2) 1m 40.25	1-10
3.50 ANNIVERSARY STAKES (Class 2) 1m 40.25	1-10
4.00 ANNIVERSARY STAKES (Class 2) 1m 40.25	1-10

4.15 ANNIVERSARY STAKES (Class 2) 1m 40.25	1-10
4.25 ANNIVERSARY STAKES (Class 2) 1m 40.25	1-10
4.35 ANNIVERSARY STAKES (Class 2) 1m 40.25	1-10

4.45 ANNIVERSARY STAKES (Class 2) 1m 40.25	1-10
4.55 ANNIVERSARY STAKES (Class 2) 1m 40.25	1-10
5.05 ANNIVERSARY STAKES (Class 2) 1m 40.25	1-10

## Folkestone runners and riders

4.45 ANNIVERSARY STAKES (Class 2) 1m 40.25	1-10
4.55 ANNIVERSARY STAKES (Class 2) 1m 40.25	1-10
5.05 ANNIVERSARY STAKES (Class 2) 1m 40.25	1-10

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6.55 ANNIVERSARY STAKES (Class 2) 1m 40.25	1-10
7.05 ANNIVERSARY STAKES (Class 2) 1m 40.25	1-10

## Hexham National Hunt card

5.10 Royal Breeze	5.40 Amblerbrook
5.45 Hunt N'Wags	6.25 Strong Sound
5.15 Rhythmic Light	6.00 Reckless Cottage

6.15 ANNIVERSARY STAKES (Class 2) 1m 40.25	1-10
6.25 ANNIVERSARY STAKES (Class 2) 1m 40.25	1-10
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8.05 ANNIVERSARY STAKES (Class 2) 1m 40.25	1-10

## Results

3.15 ANNIVERSARY STAKES (Class 2) 1m 40.25	1-10
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**RACINE**  
NEWMARKET 101 201  
FOLKESTONE 102 202  
HEXHAM 103 203

Soccer

Beresford regrets 'madness'

Michael Walker and Ian Ross

JOHN BERESFORD, after his very public disagreement with Kevin Keegan at St James' Park, offered his manager an equally public apology yesterday. "I was totally out of order," said Newcastle United's left-back of Sunday's incident. "Tensions were running high with so much at stake [and] I cannot stress how sorry I am for two seconds of madness. I hope to pay the manager back by helping him win the championship trophy he deserves. There are still four games to go and all I can do is hope he gives me the chance."

has done for this club." Beresford has now responded — "I spoke to the gaffer after the game and he's been better with me than I had any right to expect" — but the Newcastle public will see by tomorrow night's lineup what Keegan now thinks of his left-back. Uwe Rösler's increasingly stormy relationship with Manchester City may well end with a move to Sheffield Wednesday. Six months after having a £3.5 million bid for the German forward rejected Wednesday are preparing a second offer which will be formally lodged after City's status next season has been decided. But Wednesday's manager David Pleat will now offer no more than £2.5 million. Although Rösler scored City's winning goal against Wednesday — at the weekend, his working relationship with his manager Alan Ball has all but collapsed in recent weeks. Duncan Ferguson's place in Scotland's European Championship squad this summer is again in jeopardy. The Everton striker has aggravated a groin injury and it is likely that he will shortly require a third hernia operation in only 12 months. Everton's manager Joe Royle said: "The problem may clear up in the summer with rest or it may require something else." Ferguson will probably play no part in tonight's Merseyside derby at Goodison Park. Beresford's manager Joe Royle said: "The problem may clear up in the summer with rest or it may require something else." Ferguson will probably play no part in tonight's Merseyside derby at Goodison Park. Beresford's manager Joe Royle said: "The problem may clear up in the summer with rest or it may require something else." Ferguson will probably play no part in tonight's Merseyside derby at Goodison Park.



Marshall law... the Arsenal defender gets to grips with the Tottenham striker Chris Armstrong during the match at Highbury last night

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENNINGS

United decide on no more grey days

lan Ross on yesterday's decision to drop the strip that rendered the players invisible

THE more devout among Manchester United's admirers were left, amid "rip-off" accusations, to dig deep into their pockets again yesterday when the curious case of the invisible grey shirts was fronted out. Almost 48 hours after Eric Cantona and his colleagues had pulled off the offending articles during the half-time interval at Southampton, the club's second-choice strip was dropped.

the embarrassed manufacturers Umbro. It was announced that United had suffered one grey day too many. Their chances of a third Premiership title in four seasons were dented when they lost 2-1 to a team courting disaster all season. After conceding three goals in the first half wearing shirts in which they have lost four times and drawn once in five matches, the United players complained that they were unable to identify each other because of their kit colour and asked Graham

Poll, the match referee, for permission to switch to blue and white. It has become increasingly apparent that the players have found it difficult to identify each other due to the kit's colour." A United statement said yesterday. "Both Manchester United and Umbro wanted to react to this issue and have decided that as from the end of this season the club will no longer wear the grey kit. This is a decision made after taking the recent problems into account and after lengthy discussions between the two parties since Saturday. For the 1996-97 season we will register a white shirt as our change jersey, worn with

the home shorts and a change white sock." Supporters contemplating rebellion at the thought of yet another replica kit were told by United's chairman Martin Edwards: "The plan that we have now finalised means that we will wear a new shirt next season when appropriate and as a gesture to our supporters we will offer a significant discount of £10 on that shirt." England have no plans to abandon their grey outfit, which was unveiled to critical disapproval last month against Bulgaria. "Our manager has no difficulty picking each other out and that was a night game," said the FA spokesman Steve Double.

Arsenal's third time of asking may take Stubbs to Highbury

BOLTON's impending relegation from the Premiership has prompted a reopening of negotiations with Arsenal over the Burnden Park club's most valuable asset, the captain Alan Stubbs. Arsenal's manager Bruce Rioch has already made two attempts to lure Bolton's central defender to Highbury this season but was unable to convince his former club then that a deal would be in their best interests. Rioch has now offered a £3 million package which involves an initial down payment of £2 million and a series of payments over 12 months. Bolton, however, value Stubbs at £3.5 million and have insisted any fee is paid in full at the time.

Chris Plummer of GPR and Everton's Jon O'Connor have received their first England Under-21 call-ups for the friendly against Croatia at Sunderland next Tuesday. Plummer, a 19-year-old defender, has sat on Rangers' bench three times this season but has yet to play in the first team. O'Connor, also 19, can play at right-back as well as in central defence. He made his Premiership debut against Manchester United in February, and has added three more appearances. ENGLAND U-21 SQUAD Day (Tottenham), Gareth (Sheff Wed), Thibault (Millwall), Ericsson (Sheff Wed), Nathan (Charlton), Plummer (GPR), Schuster (Aston Villa), Keel (Coventry), Butt (Man Utd), Beckham (Man Utd), Fowler (Charlton), Hesse (Coventry), Dyer (Crystal Palace), Garton (GPR), Eddie (Norwich).

Rugby League

Referees overlord rounds on coaches

Paul Fitzpatrick

GREG McCALLUM, the referee controller, confirmed yesterday that John Connolly had made an error in the game at Watersheddings on Saturday night when Oldham inflicted a fourth successive Super League defeat on Leeds. But he defended the Wigan official and other referees against what he feels is excessive criticism from "certain coaches".

Connolly made a critical decision late in the second half at Watersheddings when he sent the young Leeds full-back Anthony Gibbons to the sin-bin for ball stealing, which is no longer an offence in one-on-one tackles. Leeds were only a point in arrears at the time, having recovered from 17-0 to 17-16. But the penalty that should not have been awarded cost them two points and, while Gibbons was off, Oldham scored another six points. "I openly admit that John

Connolly made a mistake but his error rate in the game was significantly less than that of some players involved in the match," said McCallum. And McCallum criticised coaches for not knowing the rules on substitutes. "In a game at the weekend officials were challenged relentlessly by a coach [Brian Smith of Bradford Bulls] and his staff, who insisted there should have been an extra substitution allowed when one of their players had to leave the field because of foul play.

"This is not an international law nor does it exist in this country. It only applies in the Australian domestic competition. Yet, despite match officials correctly ruling that the substitution could not take place, criticism was rife after the game." The Challenge Cup, whose future has been the subject of considerable speculation since the arrival of Super League, now looks to be secure. A new three-year deal between the Rugby Football League and the BBC is expected to be announced soon.

The cup is likely to retain its status as the most prestigious, though future finals could be played in May. Graham Armstrong's brief tenure as Warrington's chief executive came to an end yesterday. He will be replaced by John Smith, a 65-year-old accountant who has financial manager of an engineering consultancy in Manchester. Armstrong, whose brief was to mastermind the club's Super League era, joined Warrington last June.

Badminton

England strike bronze

Richard Jago in Herring

ENGLAND won the bronze medal for the fifth time in a row at the European Championships when they beat Russia 5-0 here yesterday. The win represented an excellent recovery after the mauling they had received from Denmark on Sunday. Joanne Muggeridge won 11-6, 11-4 against Elena Rybkina, the 32-year-old heroine of Russia's triumph in qual-

ifying in February for the Uber Cup finals. Peter Knowles beat Andrei Antropov, the former world quarter-finalist, 15-8, 15-4, taking full control after increasing the speed of the rallies at 12-8 in the first game. The high pace was too much for Antropov. This success followed Knowles's good win over Jeroen van Dijk, the world No. 23 from Holland, and an even better one over Sun Jun, the world No. 14 from China, a fortnight ago. In the mixed doubles

Simon Archer and Julie Bradbury defeated Nikolai Ziet and Marina Yakusheva 15-8, 15-6 to give England just the start they needed and could have provided against Denmark. "The Danes have an outstanding team and we would have liked to have been in the other group with Sweden," England's manager Ciro Cingolli said. "But by winning this it should put us into the other group next time with a better chance of getting to the final."

Pools Forecast

Table with columns for Division (First, Second, Third), Team, and Odds. Includes teams like Bradford, Hull, and Wakefield.

Results

Table with columns for Sport (Soccer, Golf, Badminton, Cricket, Ice Hockey) and Results.

Cricket

Table with columns for Match, Score, and Commentary.

Ice Hockey

Table with columns for Match, Score, and Commentary.

Baseball

Table with columns for Match, Score, and Commentary.

Baseball

Table with columns for Match, Score, and Commentary.

Baseball

Table with columns for Match, Score, and Commentary.

Teamtalk advertisement for The Independent News and Reports Service, featuring a list of sports teams and their odds.

Advertisement for Euro 96 football tournament, including match schedules and betting information.

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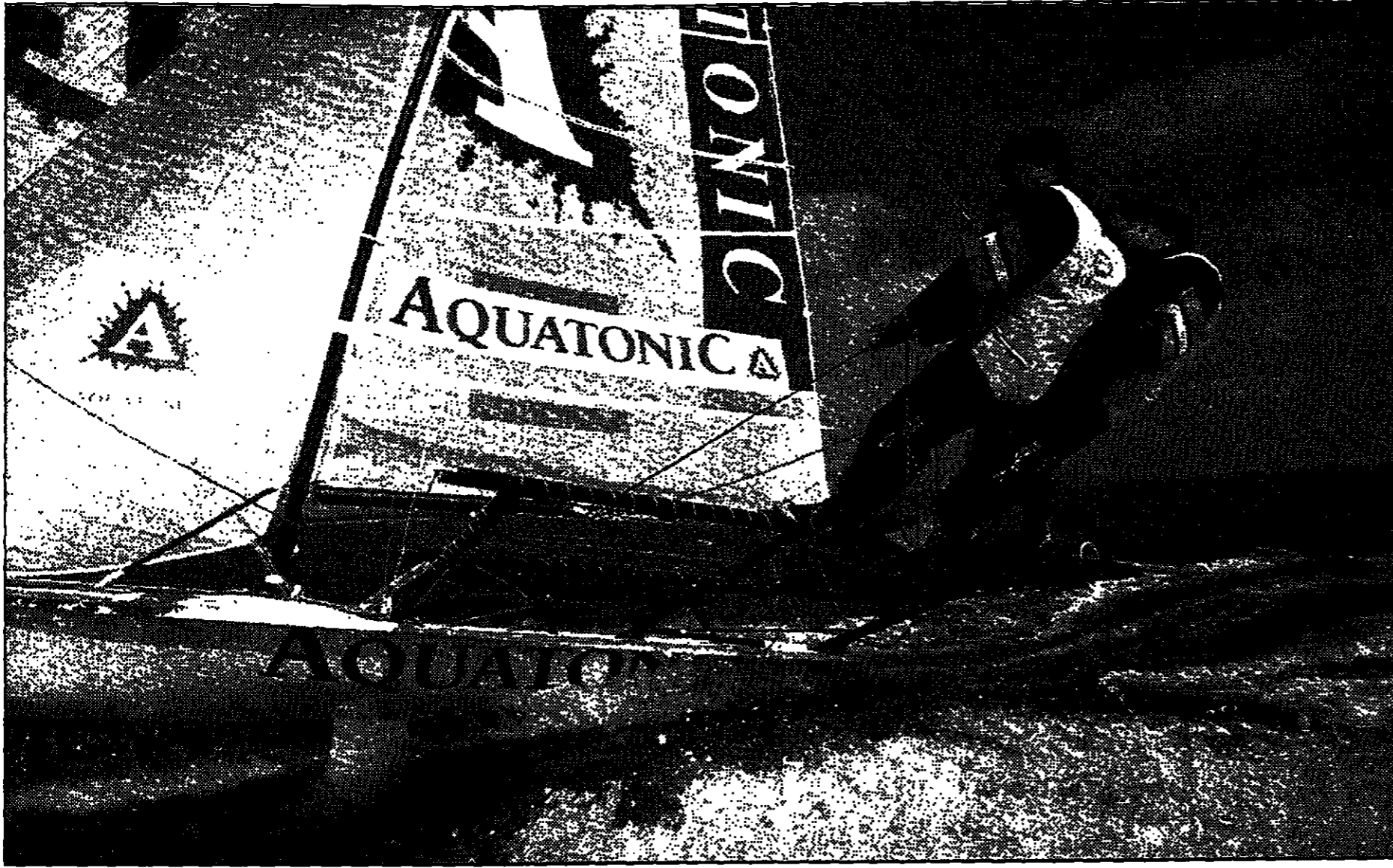


Kenya rules 100th Boston Marathon, page 13  
United unveil another shirt, page 14

The cruel torments of Greg Norman, page 15  
World Cup threat to Twickenham, page 15

# SportsGuardian

## THREE MEN ON A BOAT: A CHANNEL JOYRIDE BEFORE OLYMPIC BUSINESS



Beam me over... Adrian Stead, Britain's Olympic representative with Andy Beadsworth for the Soling Class in Atlanta, was timed at more than 18 knots on this run across Poole Bay with his crewmen Ian Budgen and Andy Hemmings. Their 18ft skiff is entered for the Aquatonic Skiff Grand Prix, a six-venue regatta which begins on May 25 on Datchet Reservoir

Premiership: Arsenal 0, Tottenham Hotspur 0

## Arsenal draw home comfort

Martin Thorpe

TOTTENHAM look as if they will be holidaying abroad later this year rather than competing there after a goalless draw left their North London rivals in the driving seat for a place in Europe.

Spurs really needed to win, but their only consolation came on for 13 minutes at the end, his first senior football in seven months. What would have been a limited-interest local derby

was given extra spice by the fact that both teams were chasing the UEFA Cup place on offer for finishing fifth in the Premiership. With the teams above them already catered for in Europe next season, a mini race involving three or four sides has developed beneath the tussle for the title.

For either of these two teams to win it would be a fitting reward for both managers' efforts this season. Bruce Rioch may have discovered that the overhaul of Arsenal requires something more drastic than just bolting on Berghamp and Platt, but

he deserves credit for the way he has tackled the tough task of following George Graham. For Gerry Francis, life at Tottenham has been a matter of bringing organisation to a team with a cavalier tradition in an attempt to turn eternal promise into trophies. He has had his problems along the way: the InterToto fiasco and the resulting ban from Europe, later rescinded, and the loss through injury for much of the season of Anderton, arguably his best player. It was a relief, as much for the watching England coach Terry Venables as anybody, to see Anderton enter the fray.

Venables will be happy, too, to hear that Tony Adams, out injured since January, plans a comeback in the Arsenal reserves this Saturday. Arsenal now employ a sweeper system and it was from this solid base that they dominated the first half, giving the Spurs captain Mabbutt an exhaustive test on his return from injury. But for all their chances before the break, Arsenal could not score. Bergkamp and Merson shot over and, when Wright was put through by the Dutchman only to be brought down by Edinburgh 25 yards out, Bergkamp even directed the free-kick too high.

Two of Arsenal's best early chances came from breaks. Parlour down the right, then Bergkamp down the left, both finding Merson inside the area only for the floppy-haired forward to deposit each one over the bar. Despite their 44-goal striking partnership of Sheringham and Armstrong, Spurs did not create a clear chance until the 32nd minute, when the latter curled an 18-yard shot just outside Seaman's far post.

The half-time break was bordered by two errors, either of which could have led to breaking the deadlock. First, Fox tried an audacious back-heel in his own area — not the place to try such things — and let in Winterburn who shot wide. Then a mix-up between Keown and Parlour freed Howells, whose run into the area finished with a pass to Sheringham who also shot wide. Sheringham, with a bandanna round his head to protect a head wound sustained in training, looked more practical than ever. On this occasion, however, his shooting was not up to the standard of the game.

As the second half wore on, Tottenham slowly came back into the game, applying more sustained pressure on the Arsenal defence than they had experienced all evening. Their best chance came on 66 minutes when Sheringham fed Armstrong in the area. But the striker stopped, along with the Arsenal defenders, waiting for the offside flag. When none appeared, Armstrong then shot wide to sum up a game littered with near-misses.

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## Play-off will decide title race if Uniteds finish in dead heat

John Duncan on a potential bonanza in pay-per-view

THIS season's Premiership title will be decided by a play-off between Newcastle United and Manchester United if the teams finish level on points, goal difference and goals scored. And Sky have an option to make the game pay-per-view.

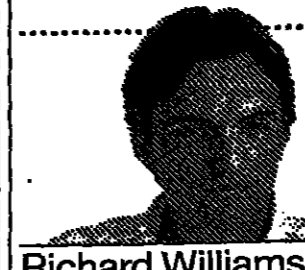
The options will be a two-legged home and away affair or a single Wembley match with a replay if necessary. Sky Sports has stressed on several occasions that there are no plans for pay-per-view soccer. However, there is a clause in the current TV contract that allows it to switch specific Premiership games to pay-per-view, though only with the explicit permission of the league.

After the huge financial success of the Bruno v Tyson world title fight the question could be tentatively raised again for what would be the biggest domestic match since Arsenal won the title at Anfield in 1989. If Sky did have a change of heart on pay-per-view soccer they would meet resistance from the Premier League board over the issue.

In her native Canada, Alanis Morissette was a child star of such fabulous Bonnie Langfordness that a future of game shows and supermarket-openings seemed cast in stone. Instead at 21, she has an eight-million-selling album and a shelf full of awards.

Caroline Sullivan G2 page 12

## The pressure that released Faldo's spirit



Richard Williams

Did Greg Norman lose the US Masters, or did Nick Faldo win it? Afterwards even the victor seemed unsure. "I hope people might remember the 1996 Masters as the one in which I shot a best-of-the-day 67 to win," Faldo said, "but I suspect this will be the Masters which people remember as the one Greg Norman lost by shooting a closing 78."

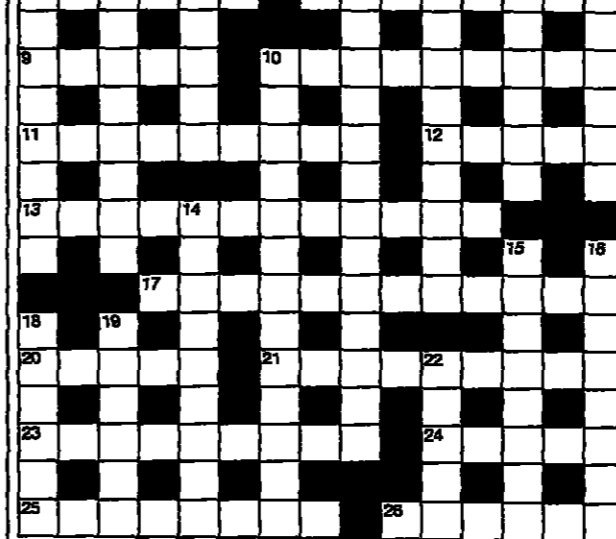
Australian. For once, however, he did not allow it to mask his humanity. He frowned, he peered anxiously into the distance, he wiped the sweat of a humid afternoon from his brow, he fretfully ran a hand through his hair. In other words, he behaved like a real person. And, as Peter Allis pointed out, he also showed a remarkable decorum in the face of Norman's collapse. A man often noted for his graceless acceptance of victory suddenly revealed compassion.

In the same register Norman's public acceptance of his fate — "I let it slip and I paid the price, but it's not the end of the world" — was given the context, on a par with the famous words of Michael Johnson after failing to qualify for the Olympic 400 metres final in Barcelona: "The sun will be out tomorrow and the stars will be out tonight. It was only a race." And with those of the 19-year-old Boris Becker, knocked out in the second round at Wimbledon after his two consecutive titles: "Basically, I lost a tennis match. I didn't lose a war. Nobody died."

As for Faldo, we can only marvel at the depth of his self-belief and commitment to the fullest expression of his talent. By way of a grisly contrast, yesterday four young English cricketers answered an eye-of-the-season questionaire. Asked about his ambitions for the summer, the Essex all-rounder Ronnie Irani replied: "I don't put myself under pressure by setting personal targets." Jason Pooley, the Middlesex batsman, was asked whether he thought the current poor form of the England team gave him a chance of a Test place. "I'm not going to put myself under pressure by thinking about playing for England," he said. Whoever feeds these boys such thoughts should be taken out and shot — but only after they have asked themselves what Nick Faldo thought about when he went to bed on Saturday, six strokes arid of Greg Norman and with 18 holes to play. Did the thought of winning the Masters for the third time cross his mind? Did he put himself under pressure? You bet he did.

## Guardian Crossword No 20,628

Set by Janus



- Across**
- 1 Footballers rebel at poetic entertainment (6)
  - 4 Wild bear was in a hurry to start wandering (8)
  - 9 Alien visitor attending one month in eight (5)
  - 10 Refusing to accept going down (9)
  - 11 Standard in those days on Greek temple (5)
  - 12 Clear air with article in "Queen"? (5)
  - 13 Where French spouse has occasion to treat pals (5,4)
  - 17 Sounds just the furniture for a quarryman (5-7)
  - 20 Drink upsetting sailor at dance (5)
  - 21 Judge for example could make a rent in it (5)
  - 23 US bank-note hit on unexpectedly late in the series (6)
  - 24 Forest of irregular density (5)
  - 25 Fall-out leading to under-world solidarity (8)
  - 26 Club for the display of male skills? (6)
- Down**
- 1 Two politicians about to turn up a source of inflation (4-4)
  - 2 Food-suppliers to the terraces? (8)
  - 3 Abandon to long depression (5)
  - 5 Writer going to town for a snack (5,3)
  - 6 Dish that is praised — highly praised, probably (6,3)
  - 7 Burning one of little weight (8)
  - 8 Stir for example caused by large cats (5)
  - 10 Keep murr? Not at all (4,7,2)
  - 14 Chemical process to determine bird's share of food? (8)

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,627**

15 I speak ill of Marxman for instance (8)

16 Faigins to be a claimant perhaps (8)

18 Conducted searching enquiry when quietly dressed (6)

19 Looks kindly on exponent of self-sufficiency (6)

22 Get rid of hesitancy on putting to sea? (5)

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